



January 27, 2006

Powell's College Prep Earns National Honor

Colin Powell Academy was named an AVID National Demonstration School for 2005-07 after a validation team visit by the AVID National Curriculum Director, the Regional Senior Program Specialist and team members.

Powell is the first K-8 school in the nation to be declared a Demonstration School. Now in its fourth year, Advancement Via Individual Determination classes are offered to third through eighth grade students who want to be challenged academically and do what's necessary to go on to post-secondary education.

The validation team commended the school on its incorporation of AVID standards throughout all grade levels and its "strong administrative vision and support."

"The AVID program at Colin Powell is exemplary!" reviewers wrote. They noted the positive impact of AVID on the school's academic improvement. The team found that "an awareness of college was evident in every classroom," motivating students to develop long-term goals and plans.

Previously named as a national demonstration site was Marshall Middle School.

These elite national award winners are selected from more than 1,900 schools in 30 states and 15 foreign countries. AVID schools offer a rigorous elective that stresses writing, inquiry and collaboration. In college preparatory classes, college students tutor Powell students. Teachers make college preparatory material accessible to all students.

Most AVID graduates enroll in and succeed at college.

17 Schools Qualify For Title I Awards

Seventeen Long Beach Unified School District schools have qualified for the California Title I Achieving School award.

Those schools eligible are Alvarado, Carver, Edison, Emerson, Gompers, Harte, Hill, Hoover, Hudson, Hughes, Kettering, Mann, Robinson, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Stanford and Tucker schools.

Winning schools will be honored at the 2006 State Title I Conference in May.

The awards honor California's highest achieving Title I schools.

To qualify and be selected for the award, a school must exceed Adequate Yearly Progress for two or more consecutive years or significantly close the achievement gap among numerically significant subgroups, double the Academic Performance Index growth target for two consecutive years and meet a designated median API score in both English-language arts and mathematics.

At least 40 percent of the students in these schools are from low-income families.



EVEREST AWAITS—Poly High School Senior Samantha Larson and her father climbed the highest peak in Antarctica during winter vacation. Samantha is poised to become the youngest person ever to climb each continent's highest summit. She has climbed six of the seven, with Mt. Everest remaining. She plans to climb Everest in spring of 2007.



Poly Senior Scales World's Highest Summits

Poly PACE senior Samantha Larson has now climbed six of the Seven Summits, the tallest peaks on each continent.

Only one peak remains, the tallest peak in the world. If she completes her planned ascent of Mt. Everest in the spring of 2007, she would be the youngest person ever to complete the seven.

The 17 year old is so intent on her goal that she is applying only to colleges that will defer her admission for a year while she completes the quest.

Samantha used her recent winter vacation to climb Vinson Massif, the 16,065-foot highest mountain in Antarctica. She was accompanied by her father, David Larson, who has joined

her on the other summit trips.

"A lot of kids at school have been congratulating me since I got back," Samantha said, "but I don't think it's something most of them want to do."

To make their recent ascent, they flew to Punta Arenas, Chile, near the southern tip of South America. After riding a cargo plane to Patriot Hill in Antarctica, they took a smaller plane to the base camp on the mountain.

In temperatures that despite 24-hour sunlight never climbed above freezing and occasionally plunged to -30°F, she spent five days climbing to the top of Vinson. After summiting, she took two days to descend before flying out earlier this month.

In 2002 at age 13, Samantha became the youngest person to climb the highest peak in South America, 22,841-foot Mt. Aconcagua. A year earlier she climbed Africa's highest, Mt. Kilimanjaro.

After reaching the top of Aconcagua as a Hughes Middle School student, she hurried down the mountain in only two days, caught a plane and arrived in Los Angeles in time for her to make a concert rehearsal. Because she had a science project due, Samantha had taken a portable blood gas analyzer on the trip and checked fellow climbers' blood oxygen levels to try to predict altitude sickness.

Since that trip, she and her father have climbed three more of the Seven Summits: Europe's Mt. Elbrus, North America's Mt. McKinley and Australia's Mt. Kosciuszko.

Santa Ana Unified To Lay Off Teachers

Orange County's biggest school district will lay off as many as 100 teachers before the next school year to help save \$15 million. The Santa Ana Unified School District, with 62,000 students, is facing the same problem as more than half of school districts statewide – declining enrollment, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. With fewer students, school districts receive less state funding.

Santa Ana cut \$29 million in 2004 by increasing class sizes, eliminating 420 jobs and

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Lakewood Astronaut

Students at Lakewood High School were challenged this week by a shuttle astronaut to expand their horizons when thinking about careers.

NASA astronaut Roger Crouch told students that they were the right age to participate in a planned trip to Mars in the next 20 to 30 years. He showed students photos of his own two trips aboard the space shuttle and encouraged them to imagine wider possibilities in considering the kind of work they would like to do.

Lakewood is one of 50 schools nationwide and the only high school in California selected to be a NASA Explorer School. The three-year partnership is bringing to Lakewood scientific and engineering adventures that engage students using unique NASA resources and capabilities. The program is designed to give students the foundation and inspiration to pursue careers in science, math and technology.



LAKERS' BEST—Jennifer Nolan, technology teacher at Hill, was chosen as the Lakers December Teacher of the Month. She was honored during half-time at a recent Laker game at Staples Center.

The Job Board

- Butler Visual and Performing Arts Magnet is seeking a music specialist to teach the K-5 piano program a minimum of 10 hours per week. Training and curriculum is provided. Butler also seeks specialists to teach guitar, piano lab and dance for grade 6-8 after-school elective classes three days a week, five hours a week. Contact Tina Montemer at ext. 5610 for information.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for associate educational research analyst, carpenter, educational research analyst I, educational research analyst II, heating, ventilating and air conditioning supervisor, intermediate office assistant, intermediate office assistant-schools, plant supervisor-high school and telecommunications technician.

Classified Classes

Classified Staff Development has now opened enrollment for Spring 2006 training opportunities. There are several new and exciting course offerings, including "CalPERS Retirement Planning Workshop," "Business Writing for Maintenance, Operations and Transportation," and "Performance Management."

Course catalogs and materials have already been sent out to each school and site. Courses are open to permanent and probationary classified employees. The catalog and registration form are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us. Find the Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index, and see Staff Development. For information, call the Staff Development Office at 435-5708, ext. 7437.

In Memoriam

Georgia Stuart Windham
former cafeteria manager
December 24, 2005

Mary Speer
former teacher
January 7, 2006

Dates to Remember

February	
	Black History Month National Children's Dental Health Month
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Thomas Edison," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
2	School to Career Groundhog Job Shadow Day 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Klan—A Legacy of Hate in America" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
6-10	National School Counseling Week 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
13	Lincoln Day—Holiday
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Presidents Day" (America's Special Days), Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
20	Washington Day—Holiday
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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(562) 997-8000. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us

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• Santa Ana Layoffs

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persuading teachers and administrators to accept a 4 percent pay cut for two years.

LBUSD negotiators presented a comprehensive proposal this week to the Teachers Association of Long Beach. The proposal includes a 4 percent raise that would apply to the salary schedule on a continuing basis. If TALB approves the agreement, the raise will go into effect on the next quadriweekly pay cycle. This proposal also would allow the school district to avoid layoffs while maintaining teacher support through librarians, nurses, counselors and special programs. For more information on the salary proposal, visit www.lbusd.k12.ca.us and click on Employee Relations Services in the alphabetical index.

The Long Beach Unified School District has further reduced class sizes while avoiding teacher layoffs despite the state's budget crisis and declining enrollment here.

The *Times* story says housing costs are prompting families to move to the Inland Empire, the Central Valley, Arizona, Nevada and elsewhere.

CAHSEE Assistance

Long Beach Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring workshop sessions to assist seniors who still need to pass the California High School Exit Exam.

The Saturday morning tutoring sessions are February 11 and 25, and March 11 and 18.

Sessions will be held at nine locations in Long Beach. For information call ext. 8178.

Summer School

Letters of interest are now being accepted for elementary and middle summer school administrators. The 2006 summer session for elementary school is June 21 to July 21. The middle school session is scheduled for Monday through Thursday, June 26 to July 27.

Letters of interest and resumes should be received no later than Friday, February 17.

For elementary schools, send materials to Karen DeVries, deputy superintendent/elementary schools. For middle schools, send materials to Gwen Mathews, assistant superintendent, middle and K-8 schools.

Bethune Dedication

In the spirit of her grandmother's unwavering dedication to the education of all young people, Dr. Evelyn Bethune will be the guest of honor at the dedication of the new Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students. The event will celebrate the district's newest building that supports the heroic American role model's advocacy of excellent education for all students.

The 10 a.m. ceremony on Thursday, February 9, will showcase the new facilities that replace two old bungalows that formerly housed the center. Supervisor Don Knabe committed \$1 million to construct the new building, which includes two classrooms, nurse's, counselor's and administrative offices, a parent center, kitchen and restrooms.

The district launched its first homeless education in 1991 at the former Seaside Hospital.