



school bulletin

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

June 9, 2006

Extra Efforts Bring Remarkable Results

By Chris Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

As the school year ends, it's important to reflect on the impressive number of accomplishments and accolades that our schools have earned thanks to your extra efforts. I deeply appreciate those who helped to win a record number of prestigious honors this year.

Equally important, I thank everyone who works so hard each day to help kids – not because they expect a prize or medal, but because they share a sense of duty and a moral obligation to give children brighter futures.



This includes our teachers, administrators, classified employees and other support staff, parents, business partners and many other community supporters who have put children at the forefront despite difficult obstacles. That's why our schools enjoy a level of success that many others seek to emulate.

Student achievement continues to show significant and steady gains. We've successfully navigated one of the most difficult school funding periods in the state's history without the damaging budget cuts seen in other school districts. What's more, in just the past few weeks, a stunning number of top national honors have been bestowed upon our schools. Consider just a few examples:

- The Washington, D.C.-based Coalition for Community Schools has just named Stevenson as the top elementary community school in the United States.

- Newsweek's annual ranking of America's top high schools includes more of our schools than ever: CAMS, Wilson, Renaissance and Poly high schools.

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Election Results

Unofficial results from the June 6 election show challenger David Barton has defeated incumbent Jim Choura in a runoff and will serve as Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education Member for District 5.

With more than a thousand absentee and provisional ballots yet to be counted, Barton has received 9,386 votes (52.2 percent) and Choura has received 8,611 votes (47.8 percent).

In the April 11 primary election, Mary Stanton retained her District 1 seat after defeating challenger Jim Deaton by a narrow margin. In District 3, Michael Ellis will replace Suja Lowenthal.

More Than 5,000 Grads to Accept Diplomas

Poised to receive their diplomas this month are 5,196 local high school seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Poly and Poly Accelerated Academy of Learning (PAAL) have the largest combined graduating class with 926 seniors. Wilson will award 907 diplomas; Lakewood, 811; Millikan, 753; Jordan, 686; Cabrillo, 539; EPHS, 245; CAMS, 145; Renaissance, 71; Avalon, 56; School for Adults, 40; and Reid, 17.

CAMS held its graduation this past Wednesday, June 7. Cabrillo will award diplomas Tuesday, June 13. Jordan and Poly/PAAL will conduct ceremonies on Wednesday, June 14. Avalon, Lakewood, Millikan, Renaissance and Wilson will award diplomas on Thursday, June 15. EPHS conducts graduation on Friday, June 16, and School for Adults conducts its ceremony Wednesday, June 21.

Scheduled to present diplomas are:

Avalon—Board of Education Member Jon Meyer, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Casino; **Cabrillo**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **EPHS**—Board of Education Vice President Jim Choura, 1 p.m., Lakewood Auditorium; **Jordan**—Board of Education Member 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 President Suja Lowenthal, 6 p.m., Wilson Auditorium; **Millikan**—Board of Education Vice President Jim Choura, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Renaissance**—Board of Education President Suja Lowenthal, 6 p.m., Long Beach City College Auditorium; **Wilson**—Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 5:30 p.m., Stephens' Field (Wilson Stadium).

Jann Jeffrey Named 2006 Nurse of the Year

Jann Jeffrey, school nurse at Henry, has been named 2006 School Nurse of the Year by the Long Beach School Nurse Association.

She originally trained and worked in intensive care/critical care for many years before becoming a school nurse nine years ago.

"One thing I enjoy about school nursing is that it uses so many of the nursing skills that I've acquired throughout my career," Jeffrey said. "It's not only taking care of the students at my school, but often helping their family members and others who come in."

Working with the school community worker, Jeffrey has provided exemplary parent education programs. She coordinated with Nutrition Services to meet with parents to promote healthy food choices and cooking methods.

With her special education students, she has promoted greater parental involvement in medical and educational decisions.

The high regard in which staff members and students hold her is reflected in the many heartfelt nominations that they submitted for this honor.

There's even a classroom snake named Ruby who owes a debt of gratitude to Jeffrey.

The reptile had become entangled in tape and the teacher was concerned that simply pulling it off might traumatize the snake, perhaps killing it.

"So we spent our lunchtime with vegetable oil and Q-tips and gently got it all off," said Jeffrey. "That was four years ago, and Ruby is still going strong."



Jeffrey

Carver Third Graders Master the Stock Market

Students from Carver Elementary School, Stephens Middle School and Millikan High School won first place in the Long Beach Press-Telegram's annual Stock Market Game. More than 100 teams from local schools competed for a first place prize of \$250.

Part of the Press-Telegram's Newspaper in Education project, the game allots teams \$10,000 in pretend money and allows eight weeks to invest it and track the stocks. The Carver third graders, led by teacher Jeana Luzzi, not only beat all other classes in grades 3-5, but also surpassed the earnings totals for teams in grades 6-8 and 9-12.

"It was the kids who chose," Luzzi told the Press-Telegram. "If I would have had to choose, we would have lost. I think adults worry a lot more than children do."

The Carver students, who charted various stocks for three weeks before selecting top performers, earned a 40 percent return on their \$10,000 investment for the eight-week period.

Stephens teacher Soraya Powell and her eighth grade class won in their category. Millikan teacher Annetta Leone's 11th and 12th grade ROP financial sales and services class took first place in the grade 9-12 category. Another one of Leone's classes earned third place.

Other local winners included teacher Doug Heath's fourth grade class at Cubberley (second place), Luke Serviss' fourth grade class at Tincher (third place), Jean Davis' eighth grade class at Newcomb (second place) and Jill Heth's eighth grade class at Stanford (third place).

• Remarkable Results

(Continued from front page)

• The Robert A. Millikan Student Energy Team, or RAMSET, won the National Senior Level School of the Year Award in the National Energy Education Development (NEED) competition. Millikan earned first place among similar groups in over 40 states.

• Roosevelt Elementary School is one of only six schools nationwide to receive the 2006 National School Change Award for significant and sustained improvement in student achievement. The award is given by the National Principals Leadership Institute at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education.

Most school districts would be thrilled to win just one of these honors, but to win these multiple national awards – all in the span of just a few weeks – speaks volumes about your level of dedication and commitment to children. I hope you will take some well deserved time to relax and savor not only these honors, but also your everyday victories that give our children the skills, knowledge and hope they need to succeed.

I wish you a safe, rewarding closure of the traditional school year. Have a wonderful summer.

The Job Board

• Stanford Middle School has openings for three full-time teaching positions for 2006-07: sixth and seventh grade history, sixth and eighth grade science combination, and seventh grade science and health. All positions require GATE certification. To apply, send a letter of interest with resume to Kathy Cruz, principal, Stanford Middle School.

• Chavez Elementary School is seeking a half-time (nine hour per week) technology aide. The aide needs to be familiar with PC computer software installation and use. Duties will include assisting teachers and students in the computer lab. For more information, contact Susan Rivard, principal at ext. 7937.

• Applications are being accepted for two full-time positions at Sutter Academy for middle school math coach and middle school technology teacher. Send letter of interest with resume to Teresa Osburn, principal, Sutter Academy.

• Letters of interest are being accepted for counseling positions for the 2006-07 school year. Those applying must have a Professional Clear Pupil Personnel Services Credential. Applicants should send a letter of interest and a copy of that credential to Janine Sorenson, Human Resource Services. For information, call ext. 8253.

• Long Beach School for Adults is looking for part-time certificated evening teachers for algebra and English for fall 2006-07. These are hourly assignments. Classes meet two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays or Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6 to 9 p.m. For information or to apply, call Rosi Pedersen at 595-8893, ext. 226.

• Hill Classical Middle School is seeking a sixth grade RISE history teacher for their GATE/high achievers program. GATE certification is preferred. To schedule an interview contact Pete Davis, principal, at ext. 4510.

• Gompers K-8 School has an opening for a second grade GATE teacher. Interested teachers should contact Jay Camerino, principal, at ext. 3605.

Millikan Joins Global Video Teleconference

Students at Millikan High School this week participated in a worldwide gathering of students designed to bridge cultural divides and promote peace.

The Empower Peace Foundation's video teleconference brought together high school students from Lebanon, Massachusetts, New York and Long Beach.

More than 200 students participated in a 90-minute session, discussing the importance of promoting peace in their communities and in the world. Students shared their thoughts, hopes and dreams for the future with their counterparts. They shared videos of their daily lives and made mutual pledges for peace.

The live broadcast was streamed over the Internet to allow students from all over the world to view and ask questions via e-mail. Organizers estimated that as many as 5,000 students viewed the teleconference.

Students from each of the schools presented Public Service Announcements they had created promoting global peace.

Parking Reminder

Effective June 30, the Long Beach Unified School District will no longer lease parking spaces in the Raytheon parking lot adjacent to the district Administration Building. Vehicles of district employees or visitors in that lot from July 1 forward will be subject to immediate towing at the owner's expense.

Gutierrez Earns Ed.D.

Peggy Gutierrez, math coach at Lindbergh, recently earned her Ed.D. at USC. Her dissertation is titled, "Effective Practices that Facilitate Student Achievement."

In Memoriam

John Ford
former teacher/coach
May 24, 2006

Clifford Veseley
former principal
June 2, 2006

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Summer Recreation

Parents whose children grow restless a few days after school's out this summer can send their "Kids Around the World." That's the theme of the new 2006 summer recreation program open to all students from first grade through high school. Summer recreation sessions will be offered at 20 local school playgrounds June 21 through July 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Besides popular sporting events, field trips, games, activities and craft making, students will enjoy barbecues, reading corners, beach days and talent shows.

"We have something educational and enjoyable for everyone," said Jodi Metz, school recreation supervisor. Supervised activities are free, and selected locations will offer free lunch, but the sessions should not be considered as custodial care.

"It is a drop-in program. Our doors close at 4 p.m., and parents should have a backup if their child needs a ride home.

"Donations of craft supplies, games, books and food for the fun summer barbecues are all gratefully accepted," Metz said. "Each school's recreation leader will be sending home a wish list to help make this year's summer recreation the best ever."

Participating locations include Barton, Birney, Buffum, Burcham, Chavez, Cleveland, Cubberley, Gant, Holmes, Hudson, Los Cerritos, Lowell, Madison, King, McKinley, Muir, Prisk, Sutter, Tincher and Webster schools.

A student does not have to be enrolled at one of these schools to enjoy these summer activities.

For information, call ext. 8333.

Math Bowl Winners

Gant Elementary School was the team winner of the 3rd Annual District Math Bowl. Naples took second place while Bixby came in third.

Top performing students at each grade level are:

First Grade: 1st - Kirby Slater, Naples; 2nd - Jessica Carter, Bixby; 3rd - Dylan Smith, Prisk. **Second Grade:** 1st - Luke Van Lant, Naples; 2nd - Kartik Kumar, Bixby; 3rd - Edward Lu, Signal Hill. **Third Grade:** 1st - Alfonso Castenada, Naples; 2nd - Marcos Mena, Naples; 3rd - Jimmy Diaz, Bixby. **Fourth grade:** 1st - Haley McGinest, Bixby; 2nd - Murphy Slater, Naples; 3rd - Sara Tago, Barton. **Fifth grade:** 1st - Kush Nagin, Gant; 2nd - Julia Tubert, Naples; 3rd - Adrian Anderson, Barton.

The Math Bowl was started three years ago by Joe Walsh, the Naples math coach.

Franklin Music Stars

Franklin Middle School musicians enjoyed exceptional success at their first ratings festival. The school orchestra received a rating of "Excellent" for their performance, and the band received the highest rating of "Superior."

Their achievement at the La Valley College festival in Valley Glen is a big step for the music program at Franklin. It was only four years ago that the program was revitalized to provide a music elective for the students. Andy Fitzgerald directs the groups.