



March 24, 2006

Sutter Scientists Win Hawaii Expedition

Sutter Academy Middle School science students took first place overall in the recent QuikScience Challenge Competition 2006, sponsored by Quiksilver Inc. and the University of Southern California's Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies.

First prize for this year's winning team is a week-long expedition to Hawaii to study marine habitat and the environmental issues that threaten its health. The seven-member Sutter Academy team will travel to Hawaii in late May with their hosts, the QuikScience Challenge team members from USC.

The QuikScience Challenge invited teams of students and their teachers to conduct a public service activity involving the oceans. They created lesson plans about their ocean activity.

Sutter's winning team includes eighth graders Jazmin Alvarez, Karen Ferrer, Sergio Garcia Jr., Branda Im, Joanna Olmos, Angelica Pineda, Brenda Rodriguez and their teacher, Adrienne Sandstedt. They presented lessons to Sutter students about the long-term impact of litter on beaches and the ocean.

Using Sutter Academy's location near the L.A. River, they sent the message that litter left on the streets and playgrounds ends up in storm drains and is washed down the river to the beach and ocean.

They wrote and produced an educational video, conducted a week-long Awareness Campaign at their school, "Trash and Water Don't Mix," held a school-wide logo hunt with prizes, and an after-school neighborhood clean-up with the City of Long Beach Litter Abatement Program. More than 400 Sutter students, parents, staff, teachers and administrators participated in the clean-up.

Lesson plans, written and presented by the team, increased students' awareness of the adverse impact of marine debris and the importance of preserving the planet's vast natural resource, the oceans. The team presented a DVD of their project to the judges at USC.



ON THEIR WAY TO HANAUMA BAY—Students from Sutter Middle School received first place in the QuikScience Challenge Competition. They won a week-long expedition to Hawaii to study environmental problems that threaten the health of marine habitat. Their adviser is Adrienne Sandstedt.

U.S. Team Visits Lindbergh, Edison, Roosevelt

In its continuing efforts to share what is working best in America's Best Urban Schools, the Broad Foundation is sending teams to visit exemplary turnaround schools in the Long Beach Unified School District today, March 24, and Thursday, April 6. They will study successful instruction at Lindbergh Middle School and at Roosevelt and Edison elementary schools.

Today's visit to Lindbergh and Roosevelt involves 22 Broad Residents, a group of future school superintendents from throughout the U.S. preparing to address the problems facing large urban school systems. These resident scholars come from diverse backgrounds. They include school district leaders who have served in high ranking private sector, military and other leadership positions.

They're here looking into successful curriculum and instruction and studying what leaders are doing to assure sound educational practices that can be used in other school systems. They will take instructional walk-throughs to assess the quality of instruction and will interview teachers about what works best in their classrooms.

On April 6, a team of five representatives

More APIs Top 700

Well on their way to the state goal of an 800 API (Academic Performance Index) on California's student achievement tests, nearly three-fourths of the schools in the Long Beach Unified School District now rank above 700.

Last year, 62 percent of local schools scored this high. Results released by the state this week revealed that 73 percent of the schools in LBUSD score at or above this important benchmark.

The continuing improvement of student achievement demonstrates to other large urban school districts that it can be done. LBUSD also has a smaller proportion of schools—only 20 percent—ranking in deciles 1, 2 or 3.

from the Eli Broad Foundation and the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) and a photojournalist will visit Lindbergh and Edison Elementary School as part of a retroactive study of national Broad Prize winners. Lindbergh is one of the few middle schools in the U.S. to have a Broad team visit two years in a row. Evaluators were so impressed last year that they wanted to return to see what additional gains have taken place since then.

"Your continued work toward academic excellence for all students is of interest to us as we share best practices of top urban school systems in the country with other districts, education leaders and policymakers," said Dr. Heather Zavatsky, NCEA project director.

LBUSD schools will be featured in a brochure and in presentations to help educators and policymakers understand the challenges and successes of large urban school districts. These schools serve high percentages of students on AFDC yet they have attained superior gains in student achievement.

Roosevelt is a California Distinguished School, and Lindbergh has achieved some of the greatest gains of all district schools on the state Academic Performance Index (API), winning the SAGA and GEAR UP School on the Move Award. Edison is a 2005 Title I Achieving School and a 2006 California Distinguished School finalist.

LBUSD Counseling Named 'Best in West'

Whether it's counseling for academics, careers or social-personal issues, no school district in California does it better than Long Beach Unified. Sweeping state competition, head counselors from nine local schools will march to the podium in Pomona on March 31 to pick up their Best in the West Awards and SPARC Academy Awards.

The gold statuettes and large plexiglass awards are presented each year to California schools that best define and implement the state school counseling reform curriculum. No other school district earned as many awards.

Named Best in the West Award this year are CAMS (California Academy of Mathematics and Science), Lakewood High School, Prisk Academy and Wilson High School. Earning the SPARC Academy Awards are Jordan High School, Avalon High School, Cabrillo High School, Renaissance Academy and Millikan High School.

Each school prepared a 10-page application listing specific goals and measurements of their attainments. These best practices are given a numerical rating. Top scoring schools may earn a SPARC Academy Award the first two years. Highest scorers three years in a row compete to earn the Best in the West Award.

Hams Serve Wilson

Wilson High School has improved its emergency preparedness by training five new licensed student ham radio operators. Wilson's Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) team includes Tyler Hickey, James Tejada, Omar Zahzah, Amando Lopez and Dean La Barba.

Since October, they have trained more than 30 hours as an emergency team. All passed the amateur radio exam. One student earned a perfect score.

English teacher Devon Day, an experienced ham radio operator, realized that Wilson could improve its emergency response. Five students accepted her challenge.

During emergency drills, they meet on the field and set up a radio station at the school's control center. The team communicates with the Long Beach Emergency Communications Operations Center and other emergency frequencies.

They are working with members of the Amateur Radio Association of Long Beach to learn more about using ham radio when emergencies occur. Thanks to community donors, Wilson's team now has a base station, six hand-held radios, and an opportunity to train as FEMA-certified radio operators.

Engineering in Class

Industrial and technology education teachers looking for high-level training to introduce engineering into their teaching are invited to a series of weekend workshops.

As part of a national grant, teachers will receive in-service training to understand engineering problem-solving methods and the way engineers think. Most of the workshops will take place at CSULA at the intersection of the 710 and 10 freeways. There is a \$100 per day stipend paid to each teacher for participating. University credit may also be earned.

A few seats are available for sessions beginning Saturday, March 25. Call Matt Saldana at 595-8893 ext. 271 to reserve a seat.

Japanese Garden

Teachers are invited to attend An Educator's Open House at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB Wednesday, April 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Teachers will learn about the garden's K-12 educational programs and resources, preview the garden's cultural programs and receive a complimentary Educator's Passport good for admission to one of the garden's 2006 cultural festivals. Grant applications for fieldtrips to the garden will also be available.

For reservations to the free Japanese musical performances, refreshments and exhibits, call 985-5930.

No Tow If You Know

Long Beach Unified School District leases 36 parking spaces (marked "LBUSD") in the Raytheon parking lot west of the Administration Building. A vehicle parked in any space not marked "LBUSD" is subject to immediate towing at the owner's expense. To locate a towed vehicle, contact A&A Towing, (562) 989-2375.

Book Week Winners

Long Beach Unified School District students participated in essay and poetry contests as part of Long Beach Reads One Book.

Winners of the high school essay contest are 1st Place—Christina Johnson, Wilson; 2nd Place—Rigel Richardson, CAMS; and 3rd Place—Cassey Realubit, Millikan.

Winners of the poetry contest were Isidro Ramirez, Hill; and Juan Esquivel, Cabrillo. Receiving Honorable Mention in poetry were Darryl Armand, Vanessa Bell, Rejoiceca Fields, Ana Guerra, April Parenteau, Laura Rodriguez and Marcos Alanis Soto, Cabrillo; and Etienne Pinkston, DeMille.

Schools Week Theme

The theme for Public Schools Week, April 3-7, is "Together We Can Make a Difference Through Mutual Respect and Understanding." Open house will be held Tuesday, April 4, for middle schools; Wednesday, April 5, for high schools; and Thursday, April 6 for elementary schools.

Transfer Reminder

Teachers interested in a transfer for the 2006-07 school year must submit a transfer form on or before Friday, March 31. For information, call ext. 8257.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Maria Armenta, instructional aide-special, Wilson;

Aurora Ballesteros, school support secretary, CAMS;

Teri Bozarth, Nutrition Services operations coordinator, Nutrition Services;

Trinidad Harris, Head Start parent involvement manager, Head Start;

Cederick Leach, Head Start family services liaison, Head Start;

Angelica Maciel, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Chavez;

Urias Rodriguez, instructional assistant-on campus, Bancroft;

Beatrice Southerland, instructional aide-special;

Evonne Winter, instructional assistant-on campus, Jordan Academy.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Coffee with Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting has been rescheduled. The date has been changed from Monday, April 10 to Monday, April 24. The time and location remain the same, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Lakewood High School library.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

The Job Board

• Head Start is seeking an assistant director, child services and a First Five readiness coordinator. For information about these management positions, call Karen Brinkman, ext. 8400.

• Hudson School is seeking teachers for Spanish, Tech Core (algebra/science) and Humanities Core. For information, contact Wendy Clafin, principal, at ext. 7957.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for Head Start family services supervisor, instructional assistant, Kids Club assistant, Kids Club lead assistant, Kids Club supervisor I, Kids Club supervisor II, Kids Club supervisor III, network support specialist, nutrition services supervisor I, nutrition services supervisor II, nutrition services supervisor III, plumber and student evaluation technician-bilingual Spanish.

Did You Know?

"Once immigrant students learn English and attend mainstream classes, they often do very well. Some school districts recognize this and are way ahead of the game. Long Beach Unified, for example, has a reclassification rate of 18 percent, twice the state average."

—Los Angeles Times, March 21, 2006

Dates to Remember

April	Keep America Beautiful Month Mathematics Education Month Labor History Week
1-7	International Children's Book Day
2	Daylight Savings Time Day
2-8	National Library Week
2-8	Week of the Young Child
3-7	Public Schools Week
4	Open House—Middle Schools
5	Open House—High Schools
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
6	Open House—Elementary Schools
6	California Poppy Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"No Time To Waste" (Environmental Conservation), Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
10-16	Young People's Poetry Week
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
13-14	Passover—First Days
13-15	Cambodian New Year
14	Good Friday
14	Pan American Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
16	Easter Sunday
16-22	Public School Volunteer Week
16-22	National Student Leadership Week
17-21	Spring Recess
19-20	Passover—Concluding Days
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day
23-29	Administrative Professionals Week
24-30	National TV-Turnoff Week
25	Holocaust Remembrance Day
26	Administrative Professionals Day
27	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8