



school bulletin

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

November 3, 2006



DICTIONARY DAY—Students from Chavez Elementary School recently received dictionaries at the Long Beach Main Library. The students are among 15,000 local school children who are receiving dictionaries this year thanks to support from the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation. Above, the students look up words to decipher a puzzle as part of a Dig My Dictionary game.

Berkeley Study Touts LBUSD Data System, Achievement Gains

A study by UC Berkeley-based Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) praises the Long Beach Unified School District's successful efforts to boost high school achievement, especially the district's use of student performance data to improve instruction.

LBUSD is one of only three school districts statewide featured in the recent report, "Snapshots of Reform: District Efforts to Raise Student Achievement Across Diverse Communities in California."

The report states that "LBUSD's data system is unique in its comprehensiveness and sophistication," and that "LBUSD serves as an exemplar of how data can be used effectively in closing the achievement gap."

While many other school districts also analyze student data, Long Beach's approach is one of the most thorough, according to the report:

"First, for LBUSD, unlike most districts, data does not simply mean test scores: it also includes a range of surveys, teacher and principal observations, essays, etc. Second, the data

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State Business Group Honors Three Schools

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, Alvarado Elementary School and Naples Bayside Academy are among 304 Honor Roll Schools in the state to be honored for closing achievement gaps by the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation and Just for the Kids.

The 2006 Honor Roll includes public schools that are recognized by California's business community for demonstrating consistently high academic achievement and for making significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all their students.

"We know from the success of these schools that it's possible for all schools and all students in California to reach high levels of academic achievement, to close achievement

gaps and to reach 100 percent proficiency by grade level on the California Standards Test," said Jim Lanich, president of the Excellence Foundation. "We hope other schools can learn from these schools' proven best practices and achieve the same results."

The Honor Roll awards are given in two categories. Star Schools (100 schools) are those with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students who have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency and achievement gap reduction over four years for all subgroups. CAMS and Alvarado won in this category. Scholar Schools (204 schools) are those that show significant academic gains but do not have a significant socio-economically disadvantaged student population. Naples won in this category.

"Schools on the Honor Roll dispel the myth that certain students can't reach grade-level proficiency and that schools with a challenging student population won't be able to succeed," said Greg Jones, CBEE Foundation Chair. "Instead of complaining about their challenges, these schools have tackled them head on and are overcoming them. They set goals and hold themselves and their students to high expectations."

CBEE was founded in 1999 by major corporations and business organizations to represent the business community in state education policy making. The non-profit Just for the Kids -- California (www.jftk-ca.org) provides a free online data and school improvement system.

This year's award winners will be recognized during a November 16 ceremony in Los Angeles.

Rotary Club Helps School Libraries

Poly High School alumnus Frank Newell, a local attorney and past president of Long Beach Rotary, raised more than \$31,000 in donations and matching funds for local school libraries during this week's Rotary Club meeting.

Newell solicited \$16,600 in donations from the audience in five minutes. Private foundations will provide \$15,000 in matching funds, for a total of \$31,600.

These funds will buy more than 16,000 books for local school libraries this year, bringing the total number of books donated by the club in recent years to more than 100,000.

Starbucks VP to Join Principals for a Day

Tom McMahon, Vice President, Western Spirit Region and Retail Operations for Starbucks Coffee Company, will be Superintendent for a Day during the November 9 Principal for a Day event sponsored by the Long Beach business community for the Long Beach Unified School District.

The Superintendent for a Day is the ceremonial and inspirational leader of area business leaders who will become principals for a day at elementary, middle and high schools to observe students, teachers and the operations of California's third largest school district.

McMahon is responsible for the development of Starbucks retail store operations and customer service for approximately 500 stores.

The Long Beach Education Foundation facilitates the Principal for a Day event each year. The Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and the Long Beach Unified School District are co-facilitators and underwriters of the event. The Education Foundation enlists the leadership of business executives in the community to plan and carry out the event. This year, Ryan Alsop, Director of Government & Public Affairs for Long Beach Water, and Bruce MacRae, Director of Public Affairs, Western Region for United Parcel Service, are serving as event co-chairmen.

Career/College Night

The 35th annual Career/College Exploration Night takes place Wednesday, November 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Walter Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach.

The event provides students and parents the opportunity to explore future educational and occupational opportunities. Representatives of more than 125 colleges, universities, businesses, apprentice programs, non-profit organizations and government agencies will be at the event.

Symposium at Jordan

The non-profit Academic UpRise, in conjunction with the Long Beach Unified School District, will sponsor the 5th Annual Educational Symposium and College Expo on Saturday, November 18 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jordan High School.

This event for middle and high school students and parents will include information on the California High School Exit Exam, tutorial sessions, A-G college requirements and much more. Job and college recruiters will be on hand.

For information, call 208-3528 or visit www.academicuprise.org.

The Job Board

- The Office of Child Development Centers is seeking teachers for the preschool, school age, and infant/toddler programs. Teachers must have completed 60 semester units of college level work and hold or be eligible for a valid Child Development Teacher permit. For information or an application, call 595-5366.

- The Office of Child Development Centers is seeking child care workers for the preschool, school age, and infant/toddler programs. Child care workers must be at least 18 years old. For information, call 595-5366.

- Openings are available for teacher coaches who will work with schools that are beginning to implement the Math Achievement Program Professional Development (MAP2D) program. Applicants should possess first-hand experience using this program in a classroom. Submit letters of interest and resumes to Chris Dominguez, cdominguez@lbusd.k12.ca.us, by November 7.

- Webster Elementary School seeks a full-time K-3 literacy specialist. Extensive classroom experience and demonstrated success in the area of reading intervention and ELD instruction is required. Knowledge of and experience with the Lindamood Bell process is desired. Submit a letter of interest and resume to Kevin Maddox, principal, by November 13.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for assistant student store operator, environmental health and safety manager, Kids Club assistant, Kids Club lead assistant, staff secretary and staff secretary-bilingual Spanish.

NAACP Award

In the October 20 edition of the School Bulletin, Kalani Patterson, winner of an NAACP Memorial Scholarship, was listed as a graduate of Cabrillo High School. She is a graduate of Poly High School.

Re-Enroll in Benefits During November

Open Enrollment for employee health benefits is November 1 through November 30, 2006. Everyone must enroll this year, even if they don't want to make changes. This ensures that employees will have the coverage they want, confirms personal and dependent information and avoids possible default coverage.

Open Enrollment packets have been mailed to employees' homes and should have been received by now. If not, call Ceridian at (800) 582-6764.

Please note, TALB-represented and non-represented employees: there is a misprint in the 2007 Employee Health Benefits Insurance Summary Booklet that was included in the enrollment packet. On pages 14 and 15 the footnote regarding the insurance default is incorrect. It should read: Employees (only) who qualify for 100% District-paid benefits coverage who are without coverage or who do not waive coverage will automatically be defaulted into Blue Shield PPO, Delta Premier Incentive Plan, and the vision, life, AD&D and EAP plans.

Names in the News

Superintendent **Christopher J. Steinhauser** recently accepted Theta Alpha Omega's 2006 Pearl Award for outstanding community service in the area of education. Theta Alpha Omega is the local chapter of the national Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Steinhauser also was inducted recently into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame.

Amy Stuh, assistant principal at EPHS, will present a study at the California Educational Research Association (CERA) conference on November 17. The topic is CAHSEE interventions for at-risk students.

First place winners in the Long Beach Water Department's "Beautiful Long Beach" Poster Contest are **Gigi Sierra**, 1st Grade, Prisk; **Lily Robinson**, 2nd Grade, Prisk; **Samantha Pangelinan**, 3rd Grade, Prisk; **Megan Wilcox**, 4th Grade, Prisk; **Heidi Hou**, 5th Grade, Gompers; and **Robin Katzenberger**, 8th Grade, Bancroft.

Winners of the Champions for Character Award are Lakewood students **Krista Acosta** and **Nicholas Tan** and Poly activities specialist **Terry Speir**. The awards are presented by the California Interscholastic Federation—Southern Section. Krista Acosta is the daughter of Lakewood co-principal **Charles Acosta**.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Berkeley Study

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is never treated in isolation; rather it permeates almost all of the discussions and decisions at the district level. How data is collected, disseminated, and used speaks volumes to the degree to which data is used in shaping decision-making. Most importantly, their approach has resulted in success."

Also highlighted in the study are the Lemon Grove and Ceres school districts. The districts included in the research were selected from a pool that met the following criteria:

- Significant diversity of student populations (each district had at least five student subgroups);
- Substantial growth on California's Academic Performance Index for each subgroup over a three-year period (2002-05); and
- Substantial narrowing of gaps in achievement across subgroups.

Long Beach was chosen to exemplify a district using data to drive district-wide decisions in an effort to close achievement gaps among low- and high-performing students. The success of Long Beach's data operations is attributed to the hiring of an expert on assessment as the Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning and Evaluation a decade ago, and since then to the expansion of the district's research department.

"Closer attention to student performance led to increased attention to instruction and student achievement," the study states.

Most of the student data in LBUSD is presented online through the district's intranet system. The research department reports student test results through electronic research notebooks that can be accessed by teachers and administrators. Teachers can disaggregate the data to identify the needs of their students.

PACE was founded in 1983 as a cooperative venture between Stanford University and the University of California (Berkeley and Davis). It is an independent policy research center. For information visit <http://pace.berkeley.edu>.

Product Expo Returns

The Purchasing and Contracts Branch at 2201 Market St. will host a Product Expo on Tuesday, November 14 from noon to 4:30 p.m. Teachers and office personnel are encouraged to attend. Manufacturers will display their newest products and provide samples. For information call Mary Grant at ext. 3021.

Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Tuesday, November 14, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 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

Pete Stephenson
teacher, Stephens
October 15, 2006