



# school bulletin

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

November 17, 2006

## Principals for a Day Praise Local Schools

More than 200 business and community leaders who served as guest principals were impressed by local public schools during the recent Principal for a Day event. The annual event has become the largest one-day involvement by businesses in the schools of the Long Beach Unified School District.

Serving as superintendent for a day was Tom McMahon, regional vice president for retail operations for Starbucks Coffee Co. McMahon shadowed superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser.

"I just had an awesome day," McMahon said. "It's just been tremendous. At Starbucks we believe in leading with your heart, your head and your hands. In all the schools I visited, I saw a lot of that. What I was looking for, and what I found, was that you are continuing to advance and pilot things to try and reach that next level. You see a lot of teachers focused on improving student performance, and I think that's very good."

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, served as event co-chairmen.

Following a day at their school, the principals for a day gathered for a debriefing to share their observations of life in California's third largest school district.

"I'm amazed at how well the high schools are run with such a large student population," said Ray Jankowski, president and CEO of Community Hospital of Long Beach. He served as a guest principal at Wilson and Lakewood high schools in previous years. This year, he served at Millikan High School, where he was joined by Randy Gordon, presi-



**SHOWCASING SCHOOLS**—The Stephens Middle School Steel Drum Band performs at a debriefing reception for more than 200 Principals for a Day. Earlier in the day, community and business leaders toured schools. Above, Superintendent Chris Steinhauser is joined by Superintendent for a Day Tom McMahon, a vice president for Starbucks. The annual event, which helps to build support for local schools, which helps to build support for local schools, has resulted in many partnerships with businesses and community organizations.

dent and CEO of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The school was much cleaner than I anticipated," Gordon said. "The students are more disciplined and attentive than I thought they would be. Overall, my impression was very good."

Greg Haeseler, a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, visited Jordan High School, where he met with student leaders.

"I was very impressed with the Student Council," Haeseler said. "These kids are our future leaders. One of the students, a junior, was so well grounded, and I told him what a great example he was to others."

Cindy Skovgard, executive director of Partnerships Volunteer Hospice, toured Alvarado Elementary School.

"Principal Julie Nyssen runs a top-notch school," Skovgard said. "She's got a great staff, with great cohesiveness. We visited classrooms and met with staff, counselors and special education teachers. They really care for every child, and it shows."

## Head Start Earns High Marks from U.S. Experts

Long Beach Unified School District Head Start has earned high honors by meeting or exceeding more than 900 compliance items during an independent and exhaustive review.

During a weeklong visit, a team of reviewers from throughout the nation perused 18 boxes of documents and interviewed parents, staff and others. Of the more than 900 compliance items reviewed, Head Start had only one minor finding.

In the Long Beach area, Head Start assists

children and their families with preschools, Early Head Start centers and home-based services. Assistance includes education, health, nutrition, social services and parental involvement activities for families with children five years old and younger.

Head Start received a similarly glowing review three years ago, meeting or exceeding all 700 requirements at that time. A national expert called Long Beach Head Start "the best I've ever seen."

Tom Knight, gift and estate development manager for the Memorial Medical Center Foundation, visited Cabrillo High School.

"I hadn't been in a school since I graduated. I couldn't get over the computer programming and graphic arts," Knight said. "My brother is an engineer, and he didn't get that until he went to college. I really enjoyed the interaction with students. What also impressed me was the principal's rapport with the students, and the respect that they showed."

Dan Rosenfeld, local government and community relations representative for Long Beach Transit, visited Hughes Middle School.

"I was impressed with how orderly and clean it was," Rosenfeld said. "Principal for a Day is a great program to get people onto campus. It reinforced my perception that everybody does a nice job with what they have to work with."

Jerry Miller, city manager for the City of Long Beach, visited Cubberley K-8 School.

"I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the kids," said Miller, who visited an Advancement Via Individual Determination college readiness class. "They were very bright, and they listened to every word I said. I was really impressed with the family-type atmosphere at the school."

Colleen Bentley, director of special projects for the California State University Chancellor's Office, visited International Elementary School. She learned about the school's "essence," as Principal Kimberley Baril calls it – a schoolwide focus on proper behavior and student achievement.

"It permeates the way they do things," Bentley said. "That was very impressive to me."

## Credential Current?

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in any California public school district.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires all clear, professional and professional clear credential holders to renew their credentials online effective January 1, 2007. The online renewal process requires access to the Internet and payment by VISA or MasterCard. The renewal web page is <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/RenewableSearchProxy>. For information, contact a credential services specialist at ext. 8008.

## Credential Meeting

Employees whose renewal requirements on their Preliminary Credential state that the credential must be cleared through a "commission-approved induction program" should attend an important meeting this month.

The BTSA Induction Program Informational Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center, Room 2. No pre-registration is necessary. For information, call Pat Kishi, ext. 2901.

## Names in the News

**Suzanne Vendl**, K-8 RSP teacher at Hudson, walked 60 miles for the Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer Fund on November 10 to 12. She personally raised \$2,200 for this charity to participate in the walk. The walk began in Del Mar and continued at a pace of 20 miles a day into and around San Diego.

**Joyce King**, Gompers, was asked by CSULB's Mathematics Department to be the presenter for "Using Course-Based Action Research to Connect Research and the Classroom" at the California Mathematics Conference this month along with Professor Shuhua An. The action research titled "Solving Mathematical Word Problems in Primary Grades" was written and researched with her cohorts **Stacey Evans** and **Melissa Ramirez**. The research was completed in May 2006.

The Mentoring A Touch From Above organization recently presented Distinguished Community Service Awards to **Christopher J. Steinhauer**, superintendent of schools; **Judy Seal**, executive director of the Long Beach Education Foundation; and **Mike Murray**, public affairs manager for Verizon. Murray also is a board member and past president of the Long Beach Education Foundation.

## Rancho Docents

Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site announces a new volunteer opportunity for high school students. The RLC Teen Docent Program will help teens to enhance their communications skills, expand their knowledge of local history, and learn first-hand about exciting career options in museum education and public history, while providing service to the local community. For more information, call 570-1755.

## Last Chance to Enroll In Benefits is Nov. 30

Only a few days remain for Open Enrollment in employee health benefits. All employees must re-enroll by Thursday, November 30, even if they don't want to make changes. Re-enrollment helps to make sure that employees obtain the coverage they want. Re-enrollment also confirms personal and dependent information while avoiding possible default coverage. Open Enrollment packets were mailed to employees' homes in late October. Employees who did not receive packets should call Ceridian right away at (800) 582-6764.

## Retirement Seminar

Presentations for CalSTRS retirement benefits will be held at locations in the district in upcoming months.

The presentations are especially important for members who are eligible for retirement. Attendees will learn about CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation, and disability and survivor benefits. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Presentations are scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 and Monday, January 22 at 1515 Hughes Way, Room 143, and Monday, February 26 at the Teacher Resource Center ABC Room, 1299 E. 32nd St. All of the seminars are scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Space is limited. RSVP by Wednesday, November 29 at ext. 8214.

## The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for accounting manager, business services administrator, intermediate accounting assistant, senior accounting assistant, senior office assistant and senior office assistant-schools.

## CIF Character Award

In the November 3 edition of the School Bulletin, Nicholas Tan, winner of the California Interscholastic Federation's Champions for Character Award, was listed as a Lakewood High School student. He is a student at Poly High School.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## Stop Loan Payments

The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 authorizes up to \$17,500 in student loan forgiveness for certain full-time secondary school teachers of math or science and certain full-time elementary and secondary school special education teachers who meet the highly qualified teacher definition under NCLB.

Teachers who do not teach in the specialties above and began teaching after October 30, 2004 may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in student loan forgiveness so long as they meet the highly qualified teacher definition and other requirements listed.

Information and applications have been distributed to schools. See your administrator for further information or call the Professional Development Center at ext. 2900 for application packets.

## Holiday Boutique

Vendors selling clothes, jewelry, holiday decorations, handbags and many other gift items will be featured at the Assistance League of Long Beach's Holiday Boutique on Sunday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 6220 E. Spring St.

Money raised at the event will help support Operation School Bell, the Assistance League's program to provide school uniforms for children in the Long Beach Unified School District.

## Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

**Teresa Alcantara**, middle school office supervisor, Hudson;

**Maria Teresa Arredondo**, senior Nutrition Services worker, Jordan;

**Heather Bigelow**, associate analyst, Human Resource Services;

**Maira Bojorquez**, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Marshall;

**Rita Burgos**, Head Start family services liaison, Head Start;

**Viviana Cervantes**, Head Start family services liaison, Head Start;

**Jimmitra Crawford**, Kids Club supervisor II, Gant;

**Mary Hirsch-Jaeckel**, elementary school office supervisor, Mann;

**Valerie Krueger**, Kids Club supervisor I, Kids Club;

**Jose Martinez**, plant supervisor II, Jordan;

**Maribel Ortiz Torres**, student evaluation technician-bilingual Spanish, The Willows;

**Susan Perkins**, assistant transportation director, Transportation;

**Martha Rodriguez**, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Jefferson.

## In Memoriam

**Klaus Barth**  
teacher, Wilson  
October 22, 2006

**Cheryl Cook**  
food production utility worker,  
Central Kitchen  
November 12, 2006