



school bulletin

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

March 9, 2007

Literacy Teacher Named Among Top 5 in U.S.

Head Start teacher Rosa Hernandez recently was named among the top five family literacy teachers in the nation by the National Center for Family Literacy. Hernandez teaches preschool-age children and their parents at the Long Beach Family Literacy Program located at the Long Beach School for Adults.

The 2007 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year finalists and the top winner were named at last Sunday's National Conference on Family Literacy in Orlando. The top winner was Gretchen White Conway of North Carolina.



Hernandez

The honors go to educators who demonstrate extraordinary efforts to improve the literacy skills of children and their parents.

"I was very honored and surprised," Hernandez said of the finalist notification. "What I do every day comes from the bottom of my heart."

Hernandez has worked for 10 years teaching children and their parents literacy and life skills. At Long Beach Family Literacy, parents join their preschool children in class two days each week to support their learning. The parents also take other computer literacy, parent-

ing and English as a Second Language classes at the same Long Beach School for Adults campus where their children attend.

Helping Hernandez to win the national honor was a glowing, co-authored testimonial from parents Patricia Obispo and Gloria Jimenez. Both enrolled as students at the Long Beach School for Adults, where Obispo learned English as a second language and Jimenez participated in an occupational program. Both parents raved about the education their children received in Hernandez's class.

"Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Bridgette Spikes, her instructional aide, are definitely excellent teachers," the parents wrote. "Our children are at an advanced level in knowledge according to their age. These hardworking and tireless women are filled with love and respect every day and welcome us into their classroom where it seems like our house with kindness and caring character – not only with our children, but also with us as parents. They have won our deepest appreciation and admiration."

Over the past three years, more than 20 of the family members that Hernandez has worked with have gone on to secure employment, receive promotions, and/or enroll in and successfully complete college classes.

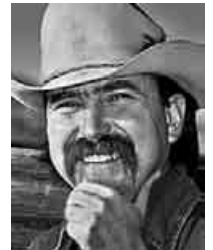
Begun in 1992, Long Beach Family Literacy is funded by the State of California Even Start Office and First 5 Los Angeles. The effort is a collaboration between the Long Beach Unified School District and the City of Long Beach.

Smithsonian Experts Present 'Speakology'

Scholars will bring the spoken word to life for 5,500 local students and 700 teachers during Smithsonian Week, March 10-16.

This year's theme is "Speakology... the art of words, tales, songs and secrets." With the help of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Arts Council for Long Beach, students will interact with three top Smithsonian scholars:

- Jim Garry began his career as a naturalist but soon became interested in the people of the West, drawing natural history of the region into his work. He has been a cowboy, horse wrangler, media consultant, wilderness guide, teacher, political consultant, river runner, artist in residence, biologist, folklore collector and more. He now works as a freelance lecturer, writer and storyteller, teaching others about our Western and wild-land heritage.



Garry

- Rickey Payton, Sr. is a composer, arranger, producer, performer and teacher. His music scores include the Emmy Award-winning documentary "The New Cotton Club Revue" and NBC-TV's "The Sunshine Store." He is the CEO of HIP-HOP (Hope, Integrity, Power – Helping Our People), a Washington D.C.-based choir that performs musical styles that evolved from the contributions of African-Americans, particularly spirituals, gospel, jazz, as well as folk, contemporary and classical music.



Payton

- Dovie Thomason first heard the voices of the Animal People, Tricksters, and Heroes in the stories of her Lakota and Kiowa Apache relatives. With understanding and sly humor, she has spent a lifetime joining those voices to share wise, boisterous teaching tales with audiences globally. She was one of Connecticut's original Master Teaching Artists, listed by state arts councils nationally, and recognized as a Master Traditional Artist by the National Endowment for the Arts. She is Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers Traditional Storyteller of the Year 2002, and a respected presenter



Thomason

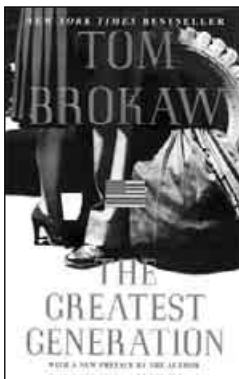
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Book Week Features 'Greatest Generation'

Each 11th grade U.S. history class in the Long Beach Unified School District is receiving a set of Tom Brokaw's best-selling book, "The Greatest Generation," in preparation for Book Week on March 18 to 25.

Brokaw's book, a celebration of everyday people who rose to meet the extraordinary challenges of World War II, is the featured selection of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation's sixth annual Long Beach Reads - One Book.

Readers throughout the community and local schools will gather in a variety of forums to honor the spirit of this generation. Veterans and others from this generation will visit each high school, where 11th grade history students will use the book and the first-hand accounts of visiting speakers to research junior thesis writing projects.



Since 2002, the Library Foundation has been encouraging a love of reading through its citywide celebration Long Beach Reads - One Book. Each year, a book is selected for the community to read, and the week includes several events related to the book's theme.

"This year, the timing was perfect for this book because March is when our high school students are learning about World War II," said Linda Mehlbrech, history curriculum leader for the school district. The more than 2,500 copies of the book were donated to the history classes by The Port of Long Beach, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the estate of Ken Slaybaugh.

For further information, look for a brochure at local public libraries, contact the Library Foundation at 628-2441 or visit their website at lbplfoundation.org.

Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Monday, March 12, from 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.

Boeing Offers Annual Educator Enrichment

Boeing engineers and scientists will offer 12 free workshops to help elementary teachers present math and science content at the 15th Annual 2007 Educator Enrichment Day.

The popular event will be held Saturday, March 17, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McPherson Magnet Elementary School, 333 Prospect Ave. in Orange.

Activities presented in the workshops correlate with California math, science and technology standards.

Attendance is limited to 250 for this free event, which includes breakfast and lunch. Online registration and additional information is available at www.boeing.com/events/e2. Registration deadline is Thursday, March 15.

Essay, Art Winners

Winners of the Amgen Tour of California 2007 Essay Contest are:

Fourth Grade — 1st Place, Iyana Clark-Pio, Monroe; 2nd Place, Joshua Mejia, Riley; 3rd Place, Travis Sosa, Newcomb; Honorable Mention, Prisila Torres, Roosevelt; Hank Evans, Longfellow; Gregory Ivanov, Newcomb.

Fifth Grade — 1st Place, Alexandrina Eggie, Gant; 2nd Place, Eric Connolly, Gant; 3rd Place, Joel Juan Owen, Addams; Honorable Mention, Justin Pumilia, Cubberley; Riley Autrey, Gant; Leslie Echiveste, Tucker.

Winners of the "Bicycling in Long Beach" poster contest for high school students are 1st Place, Hector Gracis, Millikan; 2nd Place, Yasin Khalil, Cabrillo; 3rd Place, John Warden, Millikan; Honorable Mention, Amy Caves, Millikan; Jessica Gomez, Millikan; and Josh Van Loon, Millikan.

Each of the 18 winners received a gift certificate for a new bike and bicycling equipment valued at up to \$500.

The Amgen Tour of California, in which the world's top professional teams compete over an eight-day, 700-mile bike race, recently finished in Long Beach.

The Job Board

- Stevenson Elementary is seeking a 40 percent reading specialist with Reading Recovery experience. Submit a letter of interest or a resume to Gonzalo Moraga, principal. For information, call ext. 5660.

- John Muir Academy is interviewing to fill a fourth grade Multiage teaching position in its constructivist 4-5 Multiage Program. Applicants should have a strong background in math and science and be ready to join a progressive team of 13 teachers. For information, contact Jerry Gloria at ext. 7960 or jgloria@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

- Gompers Elementary will be interviewing for a third grade GATE position for the 2007-08 school year. Teachers interested in this position may contact Kim Condon at Gompers, ext. 3605.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for grounds equipment operator II, Kids Club supervisor I, Kids Club supervisor II, Kids Club supervisor III and warehouse materials processor.

• Smithsonian Week

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at major festivals and conferences.

LBUSD schools participating this year are Addams, Alvarado, Bryant, Buffum, Burroughs, Carver, Cleveland, Cubberley, Edison, Fremont, Garfield, Hamilton, Hill, King, Lafayette, Lakewood, Longfellow, Los Cerritos, Millikan, Monroe, Prisk, Renaissance, Roosevelt, Signal Hill and Tincher.

Nominations Due For National Honor

Nominations for the Eighth Annual National School Change Award are due Monday, March 19. The awards are conducted by New York's Fordham University in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Education.

Winners receive a \$5,000 grant, national recognition and coverage by media, a ceremony at their school in May or June 2007, and an awards presentation by the U.S. Department of Education in New York City in July 2007. Winners also participate in a major national research project on school change.

Long Beach's Roosevelt Elementary School won this award last year. For information and an application, visit www.npli.org/nsca.

Summer Reminder

Summer School employment applications are available for interested classified employees. Limited numbers of paper applications have been sent to schools and business offices throughout the district and are available to download at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us under Personnel Commission. Employees can print out the application, complete and return it attention: Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave, 3rd floor, Long Beach 90813.

The deadline to apply for summer school employment is Friday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m.

West Side Story

Renaissance High School for the Arts will present West Side Story on March 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center on the CSULB campus. For tickets, call 985-7000 or visit www.carpenterarts.org.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Science Fair Needs Dollars, Reviewers

The Long Beach Unified School District's Annual Science Fair is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 24 at Cabrillo High School. The science fair is the third largest in the nation and second largest in the state. The public event allows more than 1,300 students in grades K-12 to display their best science projects, while volunteer reviewers from local businesses and the community provide valuable feedback.

In recent years, costs of the fair have been covered by donations. Currently the fair remains about \$8,000 shy of its \$25,000 fundraising goal. Organizers are accepting donations and volunteers to serve as science project reviewers. Last year, more than 470 volunteers participated.

To donate or volunteer as a reviewer, contact the Science Office at ext. 2964.

Kindergarten Fairs

Kindergarten Festivals are coming to two local schools, bringing useful information for parents of students who will soon enter the school system.

Festivals will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on two separate Saturdays: March 31 at Stephens Middle School and April 21 at Hill Classical Middle School.

The free festivals will allow children and parents to meet a kindergarten teacher and learn ideas for kindergarten success. Refreshments and registration information for incoming 2007 kindergartners will be provided. For information, call ext. 8415.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools for March are **Dennis Davis**, Jordan; **David Doyle**, Jefferson; **Holly Ferris**, Cubberley; and **Dorothy Woodall**, Lindbergh.

Lakewood student **Sean Tan** was recently named Athlete of the Year by the Lakewood Youth Hall of Fame. While excelling on the tennis court, Sean has earned a combined weighted 4.5 GPA. He has made official recruiting trips to West Point, Annapolis, Johns Hopkins and Notre Dame.

Kalani King, student at Hamilton, was presented with the Every Student Succeeding Award by Region 14 of the Association of California School Administrators.

In Memoriam

Kenneth Gray
former counselor
December 18, 2006

Jane Townley
former teacher
February 18, 2007

Judy Langford
former counselor
February 20, 2007