



school bulletin

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

May 18, 2007

Wilson's Mohr Earns P.E. Teacher of Year

Wilson Classical High School 20-year veteran teacher Ruth Mohr has earned the Outstanding High School Physical Educator of the Year Award from the California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Only two such awards were given statewide – one each for Northern and Southern California.

"I'm honored and humbled. It's so nice to be respected by your peers," Mohr said. "You hope and pray that you're doing a good job, so it's nice to hear someone say, hey, you're doing an awesome job."



Mohr

The award recognizes professional achievement, creativity and dedication while honoring those who serve as role models in their profession and school.

Mohr also is one of the 100 teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District who have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification. The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises.

Mohr said earning National Certification was "the best thing I've ever done professionally, other than my master's degree."

Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 3 million teachers earn National Certification each year.

National Broad Prize Reviewers to Visit

A team of experienced researchers and education practitioners will visit local schools Monday through Thursday next week to help determine whether the Long Beach Unified School District will win the national Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The school district last month was named one of five finalists for the \$1 million Broad Prize, the largest education prize in the nation given to school districts. Long Beach is the first former winner since the prize began in 2002 to return to the competition as a finalist.

The reviewers will visit Lee and Webster elementary schools, Hill Classical Middle School, Robinson K-8 Academy and Cabrillo High School to collect additional quantitative and qualitative data and to observe best practices in action.

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Signal Hill Elementary Wins National Honor

Signal Hill Elementary School is one of six schools nationwide to receive the 2007 National School Change Award for significant improvement in student achievement. The award is given by the National Principals Leadership Institute at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education.

The award is the Long Beach Unified School District's second such honor in two years. Roosevelt Elementary School won the same award last year. The Signal Hill award will be presented at the school during a ceremony on Monday, May 21.

"We're thrilled to receive this award for the continuous improvement that's gone on at Signal Hill," Principal Karen Williams said. "The credit goes to the school's staff and community. They routinely go above and beyond to do what's best for our hardworking students."

Signal Hill students outperform what is statistically predicted for them. Of the 750 students enrolled at the K-5 school, 90 percent qualify for free and reduced lunches. Yet the school's Academic Performance Index (API) rose from 667 in 2000 to 841 in 2006, far sur-

passing state targets for growth and overall achievement. The state's ultimate API target for all schools in California is 800.

The transformation at Signal Hill has been driven by collaboration among the principal, teachers and staff, who regularly analyze student performance data to adjust instruction and teacher training. Regular time is set aside for teachers to learn from proven practices designed to raise student achievement.

Signs of continuous improvement are visible throughout the school. Walls are posted with grade level targets and charts showing their progress. Teachers work in small groups collecting data on student learning, especially emphasizing math, reading and language development instruction.

The award competition is conducted and co-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Fordham University Graduate School of Education. Schools are measured against sixteen criteria, including: quality of teaching; alignment of standards, curriculum, instruction

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Avalon School Reopens After Catalina Fire

Avalon School narrowly escaped damage from a brush fire that scorched nearly 5,000 acres on Catalina Island. The K-12 school was evacuated shortly after the fire began on Thursday, May 10. Classes resumed Wednesday, May 16 for the school's 700 students.

After the fire, school district maintenance personnel began sweeping and washing away the ashes that fell upon the school as the fire approached Avalon's perimeter.

Advanced Placement tests at Avalon are being rescheduled. Saturday's prom will con-

tinue as planned.

During the evacuation of residents from Avalon, Cabrillo High School on the mainland served as a Red Cross shelter for hundreds of displaced residents.

Longtime Catalina residents called the fire the worst they had ever seen. The mammoth firefighting effort required transportation of additional fire equipment and personnel from several Southern California agencies, including transport of firetrucks on hovercraft provided by U.S. Marines at Camp Pendleton.

100,000 THANKS – School librarian Deanne Barber, student Alejandro Gonzalez and principal Wanda Oliver – all from Mann Elementary School – accept the 100,000th book donated by Long Beach Rotary to local school libraries. Poly High School alumnus Frank Newell, an attorney and past president of Long Beach Rotary, has led the effort to donate the books since 1999. This year, Newell solicited more than \$16,000 in donations from Rotarians in just five minutes, resulting in 16,000 more books.



• Signal Hill

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and assessment; and perception of positive change among parents, students, teachers and administrators. Sixty to 100 nominations are received each year, with 24 finalists selected, then six winners. This year, Long Beach's Edison Elementary School also was one of the 24 finalists.

The award to each of the six winning schools includes a \$5,000 grant and participation by the school's principal in the National Principals Leadership Institute at Fordham.

The award also includes a presentation by the United States Department of Education at a ceremony in New York City in July.

Signal Hill is a past winner of the California Distinguished School Award and the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

The Job Board

- Avalon School seeks a head counselor (K-12) and technology teacher (6-12). Contact Sally Gregory, principal, at (310) 510-0790.

- Harte Elementary School seeks a Reading First coach for 2007-08 with experience implementing Open Court. Contact Robin Samana, principal, at ext. 2620.

- Burcham K-8 School is interviewing for a Science 8 GATE/Excel position. Call LaShell Diggs, principal, at ext. 4600.

- Webster School is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions starting September, 2007: physical education teacher (grades K-5), single subject P.E. credential required; reading intervention specialist (Grades 2-3); math intervention specialist/teacher coach (Grades 1-5); and full-time instructional assistant with experience in Lindamood Bell. Contact Kevin Maddox, principal, at ext. 6568 or kmaddox@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

- Hudson School is seeking a full-time credentialed technology specialist for its middle school computer lab and a teacher with a strong reading background for its first grade literacy classroom. For information, contact Wendy Claffin, principal, at ext. 7957 or wclaffin@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

- McKinley Elementary School is looking for a Grade 4-5 literacy specialist to provide staff development to teachers and small group instruction to students. Send letters of interest and resumes to Thomas Espinoza, principal. Deadline is Friday, June 8.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for administrative coordinator-Personnel Commission, Research Office technician, senior personnel analyst, senior Research Office technician and student store operator.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Gwen Mack	May 31	Barbara Powell 422-6868, ext. 124
Lynn Shoopman	May 31	Pauline Bullock ext. 3153
Barbara O'Connor	June 1	Ann Driskill 439-6873
Dixie Dawson	June 9	Kim Eckert ext. 2962
Tina McCambridge	June 11	Nancy Dempsey 430-5507

Awards, Luau Honor Classified Employees

Sixty-four employees have been nominated for the Classified Employee of the Year Award. The top winner and nine other finalists will be honored at noon during this year's Classified Employee Celebration. The annual barbecue, which will take on a luau theme this year, is scheduled between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, May 25 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd Street.

Employees should park in the Circuit City parking lot at Spring Street and California Avenue. Continuous shuttles will run from the parking area to the barbecue. Parking will not be available at TRC, except for permit holders. In addition, buses will depart from the Hudson Maintenance Yard at 11:45 a.m., from Operations at 10:45 a.m., from the Administration Building at 10:45 a.m. and from Nutrition Services at 10:45 a.m. Return shuttles also will be provided.

Employees should consider bringing a hat and sunscreen for the outdoor event.

This year's nominees are: Leyla Acosta, Henry; Brad Angell, Purchasing Warehouse; Maria Armenta, Wilson; Joanne Barham, Bixby; Tammy Bechard, Longfellow; Dominga Beltran, OCIPD (TRC); John Bosley, Marshall; Gilbert Breitzman, Millikan; Delisa Brister, Nutrition Services; Annie Caldwell, Duplicating; Roberto Castillo, Los Cerritos; Christopher Coy, Henry; Susan Cuff, Millikan; Jim Duessent, Maintenance; Kim Eckert, OCIPD (TRC); Joann English, OCIPD; Mary Ferregur, Marshall; Patrisha Fertig, Avalon; Carey Flake, Cleveland; Julie Gholson, Hudson/Stephens; Albert Giles, Stephens; Maribel Gonzalez, Bethune; Mary Grant, Purchasing; Sharon Grimes, Marshall; Karen Gross, Polytechnic; Ema Hajdukovic, Nursing Services; Julie Harb, Special Education; Bruce Hardy, Research; Samuel Hill, Cubberley; Ernest (Benny) Hinojos, Wilson; Jay Holthe, Emerson; Carisa Ishimaru, OCIPD (TRC); Kathleen R. Johnson, Lakewood; Linda R. Johnson, Butler; Forrest Joiner, Jordan;

Lucky Lindy's Party

Lindbergh Middle School today is observing the 80th anniversary of the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean by Charles Lindbergh with a reception in the school library.

Former Lindbergh teacher Eleanor Weems remembers flying with the pioneering aviator on one of his barnstorming tours to finance future flights. The price was \$3, an expensive ticket at the time, Weems recalled.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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Strategic Survey

The next survey to come from the Strategic Planning Committee is the Classified Training Needs Assessment Survey. This survey will allow the district to plan staff development for classified employees. All classified managers and supervisors and certificated managers will receive an e-mail with the survey attached both in electronic and printable paper/pencil formats. Recipients should then forward the survey link or print the hard copy for all of their classified employees. The hard copy surveys can be returned by individual employees to the Personnel Commission. The survey will be e-mailed May 21. Deadline is Friday, June 8.

E-Waste Collection

A recent e-waste drive at local high schools resulted in the collection of more than 18 tons of unwanted computer monitors, TVs, DVD players, cell phones and other electronic equipment. Members of the public brought the unwanted items to Cabrillo, Lakewood, Poly, Jordan, Millikan and Wilson high schools, where Goodwill trucks served as the collection points. Student volunteers assisted on collection day.

• Broad Visitors

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As a finalist, LBUSD will receive at least \$125,000 in scholarships for graduating high school seniors and will compete for a total of \$500,000 in scholarships. In all, \$1 million in scholarships goes to the finalists and top winner.

The annual award honors large urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.

LBUSD won the Broad Prize in the 2003-04 school year and was one of the top five finalists in 2002-03. If the school district wins the top prize this year, it will be the first school system in the nation to win the award twice.

The winner of the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education will be announced September 18, 2007 at a news conference and celebratory luncheon at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.