



school bulletin

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

May 4, 2007

Wilson's Devon Day Wins National Grant

Devon Day, teacher at Wilson Classical High School, has won the national MetLife Foundation Ambassador in Education Award.

The award honors middle school, junior high, and high school educators who are making an impact beyond their schools for the betterment of the entire community. It is a project of the National Civic League sponsored by the MetLife Foundation.



Day

Day received a \$5,000 grant that she will use to continue her work developing an amateur radio team at Wilson High School to provide emergency radio services from the high school to the City of Long Beach and beyond.

An experienced ham radio operator, Day began the Wilson Amateur Radio Emergency Communications team with the assistance of the Amateur Radio Association of Long Beach, a local club that maintains a station on the Queen Mary. Since the beginning of the training program in 2005, six Wilson students have earned their ham radio licenses.

Wilson will soon boast the district's first mobile amateur radio station, thanks to Day bringing together a variety of groups and district offices. The soon-to-be-completed trailer housing the station will be taken wherever it might be needed in the event of an emergency.

The Ambassador in Education Awards were started to recognize secondary school educators striving for a sense of community within their schools and trying to extend that relationship to those living and working in surrounding neighborhoods.

Uniforms Popular In More U.S. Schools

A school uniform survey of National School Board Association members shows 34 percent more schools using uniforms than during the prior year.

The greatest benefits of school uniforms cited by survey participants were a reduction of peer pressure, prevention of gang violence, reduction of disciplinary issues, enhancement of school image, and a positive effect in the classroom.

This year marks the twelfth year of school uniforms in the Long Beach Unified School District, which was the first public school district in the nation to implement uniforms in grades K-8. Two local high schools – Wilson Classical High School and Millikan High School – also now implement uniforms.

Training for New Teachers Earns High Marks

The Long Beach Unified School District Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) program recently earned a rave review by the state.

The LBUSD new teacher induction program met performance standards in 83 of 85 categories, a remarkably high level of performance on the standard review conducted every five years for each BTSA program in the state.

"The results of this review speak for themselves," said Cathy Hicks, BTSA director in the San Dieguito Union High School District and leader of the team reviewing LBUSD's program. "You have an exceptional program here. You have set the bar very high for other districts to follow."

Reviewers were impressed with the thoroughness of the program and the high rate of retention of new teachers here. More than 90 percent of teachers who progress through BTSA here remain in the profession five years after beginning teaching, compared to a nationwide rate of approximately 50 percent.

LBUSD provides beginning teachers and other teachers new to the district with comprehensive support during their first years in local classrooms. Support includes a site coordinator at each school. Implementation includes:

- A coach who provides one-on-one mentoring and support to each new teacher on a regular basis,
- Help with classroom management, lesson

planning, and assessment and instructional strategies.

- Release time for new teachers to observe exemplary teachers with their coaches,
- Assessment for professional growth, with opportunities for professional development, and
- Seminars to assist with professional clear credential requirements.

LBUSD also was praised for the personal touch and responsiveness of support efforts coordinated by BTSA director Pat Kishi.

"New teachers here love their coaches, and the overwhelming majority of the matches are going well," Hicks said. "When the matches don't go well, they are immediately taken care of and new coaches are assigned. That's highly unusual in a district of this size."

Hicks noted districtwide understanding and support of the BTSA program among administrators, teachers and classified staff, also unusual in a large district.

"When the reviewers would talk among themselves, they would say, 'I wish I had been a new teacher in this program,'" Hicks said.

Hicks emphasized that approximately 20 of the 85 areas reviewed are typically difficult for most districts of any size to meet. LBUSD met all of them.

"Long Beach just sailed through those items," Hicks said. "I'm going to be talking to you to get more details about how you did that."

Evelyn Bethune to Address Inspiring Students

Evelyn Bethune, granddaughter of noted educator Mary McLeod Bethune, will be the keynote speaker for the annual Most Inspiring Students Awards at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 24 at the Long Beach Hilton. Registration begins at 5 p.m.

The evening of uplifting stories about exemplary students who have beaten the odds is sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation. The awards recognize one student from each school in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Mary McLeod Bethune founded the National Council for Negro Women, helped to found the United Nations, and was an adviser to four U.S. presidents. She dedicated her life to bridging communication and understanding gaps among races. Her lifelong mission -- decades after the Civil War but long before the Civil Rights movement of the 60s and 70s -- was the education of America's children.

Masters of ceremony will be Frank Mottek, news anchor for KNX 1070 Radio and KTLA-TV Channel 5; and Mike Murray, past president of the Foundation.

The event's theme is "Aladdin: A Whole New World," featuring the Millikan Concert Choir and Edward Steinhauer as Aladdin, with special appearances by The Genie and Princess Jasmine. Steinhauer, a recent graduate of

Wilson Classical High School, is the son of Chris Steinhauer, LBUSD superintendent of schools.

During the dinner, the Superintendent's Annual Distinguished Community Service Award will go to Long Beach BLAST (Better Learning After School Today). A second Superintendent's Award will go to a surprise recipient. The Superintendent's Awards honor individuals and organizations for their years of dedication, inspiration, leadership, volunteering and other support of local students and schools.

Students to be recognized at the awards dinner represent one or more of the following qualities. Each winner:

- is an inspiring example,
- is unusually persistent,
- makes a tremendous effort,

(Continued on back page)

Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Monday, May 7, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Cabrillo High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer.

Singapore Delegation Visits Local Schools

A delegation of 36 educators from Singapore visited local schools recently to examine exemplary practices.

The Singapore educators visited Alvarado, Hill and Millikan schools to learn about various aspects of curriculum and instruction.

The school tours were the latest in a series of visits by educators from throughout the U.S. and abroad. Others have visited recently from Chicago, Dallas, the city of Wyoming in Michigan, Fresno, Oxnard, Victorville and Japan.

Most recently, 400 educators attending the California Association for Bilingual Education conference in Long Beach visited nine schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Names in the News

Phyllis Greenberg, GATE psychologist, earned the Award of Recognition from the Mission Region of the California Association for the Gifted.

Winners of the Long Beach Rotary high school speech contest are: first place, **Emily Sopo**, Wilson; second place, **Allison Arcos**, Poly; and third place, **Amanda Duffin**, Millikan. Emily Sopo was also the recent recipient of The President's Volunteer Service Award. She was honored for leading volunteers who made and sold jewelry and donated their \$2,600 profit to the For the Child Center, a treatment center for sexually abused children.

Tina Aurora, supervisor of autism services, was named outstanding graduate student by UCLA for her devoted service to parents and for her widely respected research on the education of children who have severe disabilities.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Gretta Mahan	May 18	Cheryl Dennison ext. 4610
Tom Pike	May 18	Laura Breaun ext. 4630
Ann Cole	May 23	Linda Johnson 439-6897
Joan Kennedy	May 23	Kathy Huber (310) 739-3415
Rosi Pedersen	May 31	Harriett Danufsky 595-8893, ext. 201
Elyse Gordon	June 1	rjoplin@ lbusd.k12.ca.us
Gloria Perry	June 3	Ellie Steineckert 425-6376
Dottie Clark	June 6	Tara Cole 866-4568
Jan Madnick	June 6	Patty Nagano 599-1888
Jane Mitamura	June 8	Cheryl Dennison ext. 4610
Linda Carroll Frame	June 9	Leslie Jensen ext. 7155

Lakewood Musical

Lakewood High School presents "The Music Man," at 7 p.m. on May 4-5 in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$8.50 at the door, \$6 for pre-sale, seniors and children. The performances will be interpreted for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Cesar Chavez Awards

Students from local high schools accepted inaugural Cesar Chavez Peace Maker Awards at the recent sixth annual celebration to honor the United Farm Workers pioneer at Cesar Chavez Park. The festivities also included readings of winning essays by three elementary school children.

The Peace Maker awards went to high school students and student groups who promote equality, justice, racial tolerance and non-violence. The awardees were: Patrick Alex, Jordan; Autumn Williams, CAMS; Jaguars United, a Cabrillo group that promotes tolerance and conflict resolution; CARE Center peer counselors at Poly; and Sonia Bawa, Renaissance. Also earning the awards were Yanira Lopez, Jonathan Joya, Jemna Sanchez and Lilia Bunch, the student council at the Long Beach School for Adults.

The student essay winners were Gloria Denham of Edison, Francisco Mercado of Roosevelt, and Arianna Espinoza of Chavez Elementary School.

The Job Board

- Special Education is seeking a transition coordinator. Applicants should have either a Pupil Personnel Services counseling credential or a master's in special education and have some experience with vocational education or transition services. Call Leslie Gilpin at 422-6868, ext. 222 for an interview or application.

- Roosevelt Elementary School is looking for two Reading First coaches for 2007-08 with experience implementing Open Court. Contact Stefanie Holzman, principal, at ext. 5650.

- Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School may have teaching positions available for 2007-08. Letters of interest and resumes should be sent to Mark Andreatta, director. Deadline is Friday, May 11.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for administrative coordinator-Facilities, Development and Planning, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, locksmith and senior Nutrition Services worker.

In Memoriam

Karl Swearingen
teacher, Lakewood
April 24, 2007

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Young Writers Earn Countywide Honors

Four students from the Long Beach Unified School District earned countywide honors in the annual AVID Write-off Competition. The essay winners are part of Advancement Via Individual Determination, a college readiness program offered in local schools.

Winning the Top Middle School Paper Award was Maria Amido, an eighth grader at Bancroft. Sixth grader Rodrigo Parra of Robinson won first place for his grade level. Eleventh grader Valerie Gonzalez of Wilson earned first place for her grade level. Twelfth grader Mary Randolph of Millikan took second place for her grade level.

Of the 500 student contestants, only 23 winners were named essay winners countywide for the competition held recently at Mount Saint Mary's College in Los Angeles.

Business Partners

More than 100 new business partners were honored recently for their contributions to local schools. The Association of Long Beach Educational Managers welcomed each of the new business partners with plaques during the annual Partnership Breakfast at the Long Beach Marriott.

The 119 new businesses bring the total number of school partnerships here to 1,054.

Securing the most new business partnerships this year was Gant Elementary School with 19 new partners.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Brenda Biggart, accountant, Accounting;
Maria Cristobal, senior office assistant/school, Cabrillo;

Bertha Frantz, intermediate office assistant/school, Burbank;

Crystal Howard Johnson, education research analyst I, Superintendent's Office;

Johnny Marra, plant supervisor I, Harte;

Veronica Orozco, school community work-bilingual Spanish, Hudson.

Sara Slater, budget advisor/analyst, Financial Services.

• Inspiring Students

(Continued from front page)

- is an exemplary good citizen who is dedicated to serving the school or community,
- could be described as a hero for overcoming adversity or circumstances that might have prevented a less determined student from succeeding, or
- has made a dramatic improvement or turnaround.

Proceeds of the event support the Long Beach Education Foundation charities with grants, school uniforms for students whose families cannot afford them, camperships to Hi-Hill, scholarships and other assistance.

Reservations are available by calling the Foundation at 997-8023. The donation is \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table sponsorship. Please make checks payable to: Long Beach Education Foundation.