



# school bulletin

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March 23, 2007

## Tincher History Teacher Earns Statewide Prize

Tincher Preparatory School teacher Annemarie Lander added another award to her growing list of honors this month when she was named the Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History for the State of California.

The eighth grade history teacher last fall was one of 16 teachers in Los Angeles County to earn the Teacher of the Year Award.

"It's been an overwhelming year," Lander said. "To be selected as teacher of the year and now this is just over the top. I feel very, very blessed. I'm just on cloud nine."

Lander is part of a team of teachers who initiated a Teaching American History Grant



Lander

four years ago to encourage active classroom participation through inquiry and problem solving. Her students are asked to think like a historian, philosopher, economist, geographer, Native American, Union general and others to gain historical perspective.

"Our students are learning to make a case, citing evidence and using primary sources," Lander said. "It's very exciting. I'm a 23-year veteran teacher, and I can't tell you how much fun I've been having these past four years."

Lander also credits the high quality of training, or professional development, that teachers receive from the school district's History Office for making a positive impact in the classroom.

"The professional development here is like no other," she said.

The Washington, D.C.-based Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890, is a volunteer women's organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and bettering education for children.

## Edison Wins National Urban School Award

Edison Elementary School has won the 2007 National Center for Urban School Transformation's Excellence in Education Award. Only seven schools were selected as winners nationwide.

To compete for the award, schools must meet a long list of student performance criteria, including attainment of national Adequate Yearly Progress goals, high attendance, low suspension rates and high percentages of students completing rigorous courses of study, or awards for school-wide excellence in academic disciplines.

"We're elated to be recognized with this high honor," Edison Principal Matty Zamora said. "We cried tears of joy when we heard the news. We're all so proud of what everyone at this school has accomplished. This was a total team effort of community members, teachers, students and staff."

The award will be presented in May during NCUST's symposium on high performing schools, where winners of the award will share their success stories with more than 400 educators from throughout the nation. Also scheduled to be honored is the Long Beach Unified School District's Signal Hill Elementary School, one of 18 finalists for the award.

Criteria for the award are based on 20 years of research into what separates high performing schools.

(Continued on back page)

## Henry Teacher Wins State Bilingual Award

Amanda Flores, first grade teacher at Henry Elementary School, has won the California Association for Bilingual Education 2007 Two-Way Immersion Teacher of the Year Award.

Henry Elementary offers two-way immersion instruction, allowing students who are fluent English speakers and students who are fluent Spanish speakers to learn together in the same classroom. The goal is for all students to become bilingual, biliterate and knowledgeable about what it means to live in a multicultural society.

The school's principal, Claire Alvarez, surprised Flores by announcing the news recently



Flores

in the teacher's class, where students and parents had just returned from a field trip.

"It was the perfect setting, because it's all about the children and the parents. Everyone was so congratulatory," Flores said. "The news spread very quickly."

Flores, who has taught at Henry for the past 14 years, will accept the award at a two-way immersion conference this summer in Burlingame, Calif.

"The award just makes me think of the great responsibility we have as teachers to set the direction for our students and help them to be as powerful as they can be," Flores said. "In this program, that means being powerful in two languages."

As a winner, Flores will receive a scholarship for a three-week course in Spanish language and culture to be held in Spain in July. In addition, she receives \$1,000 to be used for airfare to Spain.

## Middle, K-8 Achievement Honored by District

Sixteen local middle and K-8 schools have earned awards from the Long Beach Unified School District for significant growth in academic achievement. The district's Office of Middle and K-8 Schools recognized each of the winners at a recent Board of Education meeting.

The Pyramid Awards, recognizing the cooperative efforts of parents, school staff, the principal and students, went to schools that demonstrated significant gains on state tests and other measurements.

Nine of the schools were recognized for more than tripling their schoolwide growth tar-

get on the state Academic Performance Index (API) or for maintaining the state's ultimate target for all schools, an API of 800 or above. These schools met state and national achievement goals in English and math, and closed achievement gaps by meeting growth targets for all subgroups of children. The schools are Bancroft, Cubberley, Hill, Hudson, Hughes, Newcomb, Rogers, Stanford and Tincher.

Seven other schools were recognized for demonstrating growth toward meeting multiple criteria for student performance. Those schools are Avalon, Hoover, Lindbergh, Monroe, Powell, Robinson and Sutter.

## Stanford, Rogers Up For Top State Honor

Stanford and Rogers middle schools have qualified as statewide finalists for the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. Teams of educators recently visited the schools to determine whether the finalists will receive the top award from the California Department of Education.

To earn the award, schools compete in rigorous selection and screening. Winning schools may apply for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

The winning schools must demonstrate high academic expectations for all students, achievement above state standards, strong leadership, competent and caring teachers focused on standards, and outstanding curriculum.

Statewide winners also must show exemplary family involvement and partnerships with the business community, comprehensive guidance and counseling services, ample support for students with a wide range of needs, and a safe learning environment that promotes citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness.

Both Rogers and Stanford are previous winners of this honor. This year's winners will be announced Tuesday, April 17.

## The Job Board

• Long Beach School for Adults is seeking a bilingual teacher interested in a part-time position as a GED teacher (with Spanish support) at the Willow Center. Classes are Thursdays 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. and Saturdays 8 to 11 a.m. Call Rosi Pedersen at ext. 6694 for information.

• Jordan High School is seeking a Small Learning Community lead teacher for the new Architecture, Construction Trades, and Engineering Technologies Academy. The position will be split 50 percent as lead teacher and 50 percent in a core subject.

Candidates should have an interest in these career clusters and a willingness to guide teachers in the development of a motivating, project-based curriculum. Submit a letter of interest to Kelly Hurley, co-principal, or Sabrina Arney, SLC coordinator. For information, call ext. 2102 or ext. 2452.

• The Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development is accepting applications for a middle school AVID coach for the 2007-08 school year. The middle school coach will work with the high school AVID coach to provide professional development and technical assistance to AVID sites in the district.

This position requires specialized subject matter expertise in education, as well as teaching and/or teacher leadership experience with AVID. For more information contact Liz Turner, AVID coach, ext. 2961. Letters of intent and a resume should be sent to Christine Dominguez, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, by April 20.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for elementary school office supervisor, high school office supervisor, instructional aide-alternative schools, instructional assistant-computer resources, instructional assistant-computer resources bilingual Spanish, lead custodian, middle school office supervisor, Nutrition Services supervisor I, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Nutrition Services supervisor III, student evaluation technician (temporary) and water/boiler treatment specialist.

## Boeing Internships

Boeing is offering internships in engineering, drafting and CAD-CAM to local students who are 16 and older.

To receive an application and be considered for this opportunity, students must attend a mandatory information meeting on Monday, April 16 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Long Beach School for Adults/ROP, 3701 Willow St. For information, call ext. 6680.

## Nominate a Nurse

Nominations are now being considered for School Nurse of the Year. Contact Barbara Wallace RN, school nurse at Edison, at ext. 5615 to obtain a nomination form.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, March 30. The School Nurse of the Year will be announced in May.

Public Schools Week is April 16-20. The theme is, "Public schools are the cornerstone of an enlightened citizenry."

## • Edison Award

(Continued from front page)

performing urban schools from lower performing schools, said Pamela Engler, administrative coordinator for NCUST, which notified the winning schools last week.

Among those key criteria are rigorous curriculum, strong performance across all sub-groups of students, and positive relationships among parents, teachers, the principal and other school leaders.

Edison, located in downtown Long Beach, has shown strong academic growth in recent years. In math, for instance, approximately 84 percent of Edison students are now proficient, up from 37 percent just three years ago. The school's state Academic Performance Index has grown to 796, up 119 points in the last two years and now just four points shy of the state's target of 800 for all schools. Edison serves high numbers of socioeconomically disadvantaged children, with 99 percent of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches.

The NCUST award is Edison's sixth award in the last two years. Last year, the school earned the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. Edison has been honored twice by the Long Beach Unified School District as a STAR high achieving school, and twice with the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

The NCUST was founded as part of the QUALCOMM Institute for Innovation and Educational Success at San Diego State University.

The other six national winners of the NCUST Award this year are schools in Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Columbus, Ohio; Austin, Texas; Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.; Atlanta and Detroit.

## Meeting of the Year

An informational meeting for those interested in applying to be Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year will be held Monday, April 23 at the Teacher Resource Center Room C from 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Applications and timelines of events will be distributed at this meeting for Long Beach Unified School District teachers. Call Fran Pfeiffer at ext. 2901 to reserve a seat.

An informational meeting sponsored by the county will be held May 30 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, 9300 Imperial Hwy, Downey. For information about this meeting, call 922-6360.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Concert to Benefit Honor Choir Trip

A concert to help the school district's High School Honor Choir pay for a trip to sing at America's 400th birthday celebration in Jamestown, VA is scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at Millikan High School. Suggested donation at the door is \$20. Advance donors will receive two tickets.

The Honor Choir has been invited to represent Southern California at a celebration marking the settlement of Jamestown in 1607. The celebration in Virginia will culminate in a concert on Sunday, May 13.

To donate, mail a check payable to "Long Beach Education Foundation" for "Jamestown 2007 Honor Choir" to LBUSD Visual and Performing Arts Office, Attention: James Petri, Music Curriculum Leader, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810. For information, contact Jan Bajza at ext. 8184.

## Dates to Remember

April	
	Keep America Beautiful Month
	Mathematics Education Month
	Public Schools Month
1-7	Week of the Young Child
1-7	Labor History Week
2	International Children's Book Day
3-4	Passover Begins
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
6	Good Friday
6	California Poppy Day
10-00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8	
6	World Health Day
7	Easter Sunday
8	Passover Ends
9-10	Spring Recess
9-13	Cambodian New Year
13-15	Pan American Day
14	National Student Leadership Week
15-21	National Library Week
15-21	Public School Volunteer Week
15-21	National Wildlife Week
16	Patriot's Day
16-20	Public Schools Week
16-22	Young People's Poetry Week
17	Open House—Middle Schools
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8	
17	Open House—High Schools
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19	Open House—Elementary Schools
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "No Time To Waste!" (Environmental Conservation), Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8	
20	National and Global Youth Service Week
20-22	John Muir Day
21	Earth Day
22	Administrative Professionals Week
22-28	National TV-Turnoff Week
23-29	Commemoration of Armenian Genocide
24	Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day
25	Administrative Professionals Day
8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 26 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8	
25	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
26	National Arbor Day
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8	
27	
27	

## In Memoriam

**Wally Jacobson**  
former mail delivery driver  
February 26, 2007

**Alfreda Winston**  
secretary, Contracts Office  
March 12, 2007