



school bulletin

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

October 19, 2007

Four Schools Make Statewide Honor Roll

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and Lowell, Naples and International elementary schools are among 579 Honor Roll Schools named statewide this week for closing achievement gaps.

The 2007 Honor Roll from the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation and Just for the Kids includes schools recognized by business leaders for improvement and high achievement.

The Honor Roll includes Star Schools (126 schools) and Scholar Schools (443 schools). Star Schools have significant populations of disadvantaged students yet show a significant increase in achievement over four years for all groups of students. CAMS and International won this honor. Scholar Schools show high academic achievement but do not have a significant disadvantaged population. Lowell and Naples won this honor.

CBEE was founded in 1999 by major corporations and business organizations to represent the business community in state education policy making. The non-profit Just for the Kids (www.jftk-ca.org) provides a free online data and school improvement system.

Graduates of Jordan, Cabrillo Earn Awards

Recent Cabrillo and Jordan high school graduates have earned Youth Awards from the Centro Community Hispanic Association, a prominent Latino advocacy group.

The annual Youth Awards this year went to Cabrillo graduate Jaqueline Araujo and Jordan International Baccalaureate graduates Erik and Larry Fernandez. The Fernandez brothers are enrolled at UC Berkeley and aspire to become physicians, while Araujo is studying biochemistry at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Araujo wants to become a physician and a teacher.

Virtual Job Shadows

Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, Long Beach City College and the Long Beach Unified School District are partnering to provide high school students with virtual job shadows, or online videos that provide information on rewarding careers in goods movement, management and other professions.

The mayor announced the videos this week at Cabrillo High School. Through Oct. 31 at www.virtualjobshadow.com/lbcc, the public may access the videos. Beginning Nov. 1, high schools in the district will receive a three-year subscription to the website through grants from LBCC.

Poly's Virtuoso Violinist Starts College at 14

Poly High School sophomore Aishu Venkataraman awakens each day at about 4:45 a.m. Within minutes, the violinist begins coaxing the soulful sounds of South Indian-style classical music from her instrument.

After two hours of practice, the 14-year-old heads to Poly, where she attends rigorous PACE honors classes and participates in the big band ensemble. Then it's time for homework and at least three more hours of violin practice before bedtime at around 10:30 p.m.

It's all in a day's work for the acclaimed musical prodigy, who has completed a year's worth of college credits at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. She will earn her college degree in performance by the time she completes high school.

Aishu recently recorded an album of Indian violin music, *Bliss*, for commercial release in the coming weeks. As part of her high school service learning project, proceeds of the album will go to the Baylor College of Medicine Pediatric AIDS Initiative.

Aishu takes her success in stride and credits the support of family and friends.

"All of this has happened step by step, day by day, hour by hour of practice. It's not a one-time thing but a gradual process," she said.

A Berklee professor was more effusive. He described Aishu as a full-bore virtuoso.

"I've only seen a handful of people like this in my life," Marc Rossi, Aishu's private instructor, states in a feature article on Berklee's website, www.berklee.edu. "She's amazingly developed at a very early age. Some people will spend their whole life and not get to this point. It's pretty rare. There is no question that she's a prodigy."

Venkataraman – one of Berklee's youngest students in history – completed a 12-week full credit summer program this year. She had earned the spot at Berklee after one audition at

age 13. The full-ride scholarship is valued at about \$40,000 per year.

"When she auditioned, they were head over heels, and they picked her up immediately," said Aishu's father, Vinod R. Venkataraman.

Aishu became interested in Berklee after attending a college fair at UCLA. Her father, a professional South Indian drummer and mathematics professor, had once performed at

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DIVINE VIOLIN - Poly sophomore Aishu Venkataraman will earn her college degree by the time she graduates from high school. Listen to her music at www.divinestrings.com.

Assistance League Boosts School Uniform Aid

The non-profit Assistance League and its signature program, Operation School Bell, is providing uniforms for the entire student populations of International, Lindsey and Edison schools this fall. More than 2,500 youngsters will receive uniforms by the end of the month.

Each student receives two white polo shirts, two pairs of black or navy pants and a black or navy sweatshirt.

Also among the recipients this fall is the entire sixth grade class at Franklin Classical Middle School. The entire Franklin student population received uniforms from the Assistance League last year.

The goal is to provide uniforms for 5,700 students this school year, and 10,000 uniforms by 2010, said Sandra French, president of the Assistance League of Long Beach.

The International and Edison uniforms will be packed by volunteers on National Make a

Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 27.

Volunteers will include more than 75 high school girls who belong to the Assistance League's Assistens auxiliaries. The volunteers will pack the uniforms into a new backpack for each child, complete with personalized luggage tags imprinted with students' names.

"We'll be packaging uniforms for more than 1,700 students in just one day," French said. "That certainly should make a difference in someone's life."

Make a Difference Day, the largest national day of helping others, is held in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation and is supported by actor Paul Newman's charity foundation.

The Assistance League and another of its auxiliaries, Rickrackers, have been long-time supporters of the Long Beach Unified School District's nationally recognized school uniform effort.

• Virtuoso

(Continued from front page)

Berklee. He handed a Berklee representative *Divine Strings*, a live recording of a solo concert that Aishu performed at age nine as a fundraiser for Kettering Elementary School. At Kettering, she played in the orchestra, and she would later join the jazz band at Stanford Middle School. But the Kettering recording resulted in the audition.

"Kettering was a real turning point," her father said, "and it's been an upward trend, slow and steady. We've got some great teachers, and Poly is definitely one of the best schools I've seen."

The proud dad, a native of Bombay, India, gave Aishu a custom-made, one-sixteenth scale violin when she was just 18 months old. She later began training with one of India's legendary violinists, T.N. Krishnan.

Because much of Indian music is based on improvisation, the young musician gravitated toward jazz and has begun combining the two art forms. At Berklee, she played in Brazilian and Latin jazz ensembles.

Recent engagements include a seven-concert tour of India where one reviewer described her as "a worthy successor to the current four violin giants," including her guru, Krishnan. Aishu performed during halftime at a Nets/Knicks basketball game and has been featured on the National Public Radio series, "Crossing East."

Talented at math and science, Aishu plans to attend medical school and become a physician.

Though she describes herself as driven, Aishu also makes time for fun. She enjoys going to weekend movies and spending quality time with friends.

"She's an amazing musician. The best part, though, is that she is also an incredibly nice, humble and well-adjusted person," said Chris Stevens, Poly music department chair.

For samples of Aishu's music and the recent interview with National Public Radio, visit www.divinestrings.com.

Open Enrollment

The Long Beach Unified School District will hold its annual benefits open enrollment Nov. 1 to 30. Open enrollment information will be sent to employees' homes during the last week of October.

To help educate employees about their benefits and encourage wellness practices, the district is holding a Health Fair from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill. Employees can meet with insurance carriers, participate in health screenings, receive free flu shots and get answers to questions on benefits.

In Memoriam

Morry Sires
former vice principal
Oct. 4, 2007

Robert Hart
former director
Oct. 15, 2007

Dates to Remember

November	American Indian Heritage Month Child Safety & Protection Month
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
4	Standard Time Day
6	Election Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
11-17	American Education Week
12	Veterans Day (Observed)
12-18	National Children's Book Week
12-18	Youth Appreciation Week
13	National Community Education Day
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Pilgrims At Plymouth," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
13-17	Geography Awareness Week
14	Education Support Professionals Day
14	Geographic Information Systems Day
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "William Bradford, The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
22	Thanksgiving Day
22-23	Thanksgiving (Dates of observance)
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
29	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8

Kindergarten Fairs

Kindergarten Festivals will be held 9 a.m. to noon on four Saturdays: Nov. 3 at Hill Classical Middle School, Jan. 12 at Hughes Middle School, Feb. 9 at Powell Academy and April 5 at Renaissance High School.

The free festivals allow children and parents to meet a kindergarten teacher and learn ideas for kindergarten success.

Refreshments and school registration information will be provided. For information, call ext. 8415.

Newspaper Workshop

A Newspaper In Education workshop will be held Saturday, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*, 300 Ocean Gate. It includes continental breakfast, lunch, a tour, hands-on activities and teaching materials. The class may be taken for one unit of credit (\$114) by completing eight hours of classroom application or for non-credit (\$49). For information, call 499-1445.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Salary Credit

Certificated employees may advance on the salary schedule by submitting proof of qualifying units to Human Resource Services.

After the first year of employment, salary changes will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2007-08 contract year if official transcripts are received by Nov. 1.

Salary changes based on transcripts submitted by new hires or after Nov. 1 apply to the next pay period after transcripts are submitted.

Upper division, graduate level or qualifying professional units will apply toward salary schedule placement advancement. Qualifying professional units are for courses required for a credential or certificate issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing or upper division and graduate level courses designated as professional courses for educators by the college or university.

For information, contact Human Resource Services at hrrshelp@lbschools.net.

Principal, VP Jobs

Applications for promotion to the positions of principal and assistant/vice principal are now available for the 2008-09 school year. Principal applications are due Dec. 7, and AP/VP applications are due Feb. 15. All applications received will be considered for the Aspiring Principal and Aspiring Assistant Principal programs.

Workshops providing application and program information will be held Nov. 5 for aspiring assistant principals in AB 143, and Nov. 15 for aspiring principals in the Burcham K-8 School Auditorium. Both workshops begin at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kristi Kahl at the Leadership Development Office/HRS at msykes@lbschools.net or ext. 8183.

The Job Board

• Child Development Centers is seeking a program coordinator to support sites with curriculum and instruction, provide guidance to teaching staff on best practices for early childhood and school-age care education, evaluate teaching staff and work with parents. Send a resume and three letters of recommendation (one from immediate supervisor) to Miriam Garcia, Child Development Centers. For information, call 595-5366.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for contract analyst, instructional aide-alternative school, intermediate payroll accounting technician, plant supervisor I, plant supervisor II and senior payroll accounting technician.

Free Youth Concert

Teachers, students and families are invited to a free concert featuring a joint orchestra from the Colburn Conservatory and the Sibelius Academy Orchestras, led by young conductors from around the world.

The concert, which is part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's 2007 International Youth Orchestra Festival, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26 at Long Beach City College.

Visit www.LAPhil.com/YouthFestival for more information.