



# school bulletin

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March 21, 2008

## Eight More Schools Up for State Honor

Eight elementary and K-8 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are finalists for the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. Teams of educators are visiting the schools this month to determine whether the finalists will receive the top award.

Alvarado, Emerson, Gant, Henry, Lee, Lowell and Roosevelt elementary schools qualified as finalists along with Cubberley K-8 School. Winners will be announced in April, and they will be recognized May 16 during a ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel.

To earn the California Distinguished School Award, schools compete in rigorous selection and screening conducted by the California Department of Education. 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.

A total of 35 Long Beach Unified School District schools have already received this top state honor.

## Teacher Raise OK'd

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has given the final OK to an agreement with the Teachers Association of Long Beach that will provide teachers a 4.53 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2007.

The salary increase will appear on March 28 paychecks. Retroactive checks will be issued April 11.

"We're pleased to provide teachers this competitive salary and benefits package," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, superintendent of schools. "What's more, we're doing this at a time when other school districts are issuing massive layoff notices to teachers because of the state budget crisis. We refuse to do that here."

"To our teachers, we say, keep up the great work. We appreciate and respect you. We will not abandon you."

TALB members approved the deal by a 98 percent vote. Most other employees in the school district also recently received the same 4.53 percent salary increase with no changes to health benefits.

## Signal Hill, Tucker Schools Win National Award

Signal Hill and Tucker elementary schools have won the National Center for Urban School Transformation's Excellence in Urban Education Award. Only 11 schools nationwide earned the honor this year. The Long Beach Unified School District is the only district in the nation with two winners.

Signal Hill, Tucker and the other top winners will be recognized at the 2008 NCUST symposium May 8 to 9 in San Diego.

To compete for the award, urban school applicants must meet 11 rigorous criteria, including proficiency rates on state assessments that exceed state averages, high achievement for all demographic groups served, high attendance rates, low suspension and expulsion rates for all demographic groups served, high graduation rates, and the attainment of federal Adequate Yearly Progress goals.

The majority of students served at the

schools must meet low-income criteria, and the schools must have non-selective admissions policies.

In every winning school, students, teachers, support staff and parents felt valued, supported and appreciated, according to NCUST's website, [www.ncust.org](http://www.ncust.org).

"The Excellence in Urban Education awards acknowledge that many educators in urban schools are accomplishing amazing results," said Dr. Joseph F. Johnson, Jr., executive director of NCUST. "As a nation we give lots of attention to those schools that are in need of improvement, but there's far too little attention paid to the schools that are serving children exceptionally well."

Signal Hill and Tucker schools were among four LBUSD schools that made the NCUST's 2008 National Honor Roll earlier this year.

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## CAMS Opens Northrop Grumman Tech Lab

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science recently opened its 17,000-square-foot Northrop Grumman Technology Lab, where students will explore robotics, engineering, space technology and other disciplines.

The new building is funded by a \$250,000 grant from Northrop Grumman. Many CAMS students hold summer internships at Northrop Grumman, whose space technology sector helped start the school with a \$1.2 million grant in 1990.

"Students at CAMS, you're finally going to have the education we dreamed you would have," Kathy Clark, the school's first principal, said at a recent dedication ceremony. Clark spent years planning the project before she

retired last year.

CAMS is a 600-student regional high school at Cal State Dominguez Hills and is run by the Long Beach Unified School District. The school is widely recognized for sending its graduates to top math, science and engineering college programs.

By encouraging students to pursue math and science degrees, Northrop Grumman boosts the caliber of its own job applicants.

Earlier this school year, a ranking of America's Best High Schools by *U.S. News and World Report* included CAMS, which ranked 21st among the nation's 19,000 public high schools. *Newsweek* also ranks CAMS among America's best high schools.

**STUDY BREAK —** Students at the award-winning California Academy of Mathematics and Science perform a modern jazz dance to help celebrate the opening of the school's new Northrop Grumman Technology Lab. The top-ranked high school will offer robotics, engineering and other courses in the new, 17,000-square-foot facility.



## Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Employees may submit nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 25.

The award spotlights outstanding co-workers who support the district's educational mission, demonstrate a commitment to being a team player and positive role model, strive for excellence in job performance, and contribute significantly to the classroom support and/or the business operations of the school district.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible for this honor. The selection committee will not consider self-nominations. Only district classified or certificated employees may nominate a classified employee. Employees who have been nominated before may be nominated again, even if they were finalists in previous years.

Nomination forms are available at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) (see Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index). Each site will receive a limited quantity of nomination forms. Completed nomination forms may be faxed to 435-1018 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists and the top winner will be announced at the Classified Employee Barbecue at the Teacher Resource Center on Friday, May 23. The barbecue is held each year with the help of donations from employees and generous community supporters. No district funds are used for the event. The award winner also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting.

## The Job Board

- Newcomb Academy has an opening for an eighth grade GATE Algebra CD, and AVID teacher. Candidates must be GATE certified or close to finishing GATE certification.

Applicants must be willing to complete GATE certification within two years, must be able to teach complex algebra concepts in a highly motivating and easy to understand format, and be willing to work collaboratively with eighth grade colleagues on decisions that affect the eighth grade team. To interview call Beth Flynn at ext. 4640.

- Millikan is interviewing for a QUEST AP U.S. history teaching position for the fall of 2008. If interested, contact Don Keller, co-principal, at ext. 4102. Deadline to apply is Friday, April 11.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for library/media assistant, library/media center assistant, student evaluation technician and transportation aide-bilingual Spanish.

## Transfer Reminder

Teacher transfer requests for the 2008-09 school year are due Monday, March 31.

A list of vacancies is now posted at all schools, the TALB office, the HRS office and on the HRS website.

For additional information, call ext. 8635.

## Dates to Remember

April	
1-7	Keep America Beautiful Month
1	Mathematics Education Month
1	Labor History Week
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Cesar Chavez," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
2	International Children's Book Day
2	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
6	California Poppy Day
7-11	Public Schools Week
8	Open House — Middle Schools
9	Open House — High Schools
10	Open House — Elementary Schools
13-15	Cambodian New Year
13-19	National Library Week
13-19	Week of the Young Child
14-20	Young People's Poetry Week
14	Pan American Day
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "No Time to Waste," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
20-21	Passover — First Days
20-26	Administrative Professionals Week
20-26	National Student Leadership Week
20-26	Public School Volunteer Week
21-27	National TV-Turnoff Week
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day
23	Administrative Professionals Day
23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 24 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
24	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
26	Science Fair
26-27	Passover — Concluding Days
27-May 3	National and Global Youth Service Week
29	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8

## Cubberley Supports Fight Against Cancer

Students and adults raised more than \$50,000 at a recent Cubberley K-8 School event to help fight childhood cancers. At the annual St. Baldrick's Day event, about 200 volunteers shaved their heads after gathering donations. Participants included Kayleigh Scott, a Cubberley student just completing cancer treatment.

## Be a Marrow Donor

A blood drive and bone marrow registry for former Wilson High School teacher, athletic director and coach Rick Jones will occur Wednesday, April 2, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wilson Small Gym. For information, call ext. 6912.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## • National Honors

(Continued from first page)

King Elementary School and Robinson K-8 Academy shared that honor, which was bestowed upon only 53 schools in the United States. Of the four local Honor Roll schools, both Tucker and Signal Hill were selected as finalists and then as top winners.

LBUSD's Edison Elementary School won the NCUST's top honor last year. As with Edison, both Signal Hill and Tucker already have earned the California Distinguished School Award, and they have earned the National Title I Achieving School Award.

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

This year's top winners receive a check for \$1,000 and a large banner for their school.

Visit [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) for more information.

## Poly Musicians Help Pediatric AIDS Effort

Poly High School's violin prodigy Aishu Venkataraman will perform a special concert 5 p.m., Saturday, April 12 at the Cal State Long Beach University Theatre to benefit the Baylor College of Medicine's International Pediatric AIDS Initiative. The Poly High School Jazz Band will perform as the opening act.

Performing the "Rhythm Expressions" concert with Aishu will be four renowned Indian drummers, including her father, V.R. Venkataraman. Aishu has chosen the Baylor initiative as her senior service learning project and has raised more than \$5,000 for the effort from concert proceeds and sales of her new album, *Bliss*, released commercially last fall.

The suggested donation for the concert is \$25 for adults and \$5 for children and students, with checks payable to BIPAI. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 756-3500.

The father-daughter Venkataraman team is multi-talented. Daughter Aishu is an honor student and will earn her college degree in music by the time she completes high school. Father V.R. is a professional drummer and mathematics professor. He also currently teaches four-hour Saturday SAT prep classes at Jordan High School and recently completed such a class at Cabrillo High School, where about 80 Cabrillo eleventh graders finished the free, six-week session.

## In Memoriam

**Janet Sakamoto**  
former teacher  
Jan. 25, 2008

**Anthony Carbone**  
teacher, Lee  
March 6, 2008