



# school bulletin

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

February 22, 2008

## Smithsonian Week Brings 1950s Era to Life

More than 5,500 local students and 700 teachers will interact with Smithsonian scholars during the Arts Council for Long Beach Smithsonian Week, March 7 to 14.

This year's Smithsonian Week theme is '50s Fun, Fear and Rock 'n' Roll. Topics include paint-by-numbers, product promotion through parade floats and window displays, and the birth of the "jet set." Fears of the Cold War, communism and the bomb present the other side of the 1950s.

Six scholars will be part of this year's events:

Tom Crouch is Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum. Crouch has written several award-winning books and played a major role in planning exhibitions and managing museum collections. President Bill Clinton appointed Crouch to the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board. Crouch is now completing his latest book, "Lighter than Air: A Concise History of Balloons and Airships."

Charlie McGovern is Associate Professor of History and American Studies at the College of William and Mary. He is formerly Curator of American Culture at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. His interests include



Crouch



McGovern

modern American history, 20th-century popular culture, popular music, and the culture of American capitalism, especially consumerism. He is working on a book tentatively titled, "Only in America: Race, Citizenship and Popular Music, 1930-1977."

Alan Hess is an architect and historian who has written books documenting the architectural history of the suburban metropolis in the West. He focuses on neglected mid-century, popular, and West Coast architecture. Hess has been active in the preservation of roadside and post-War architecture, including the nation's oldest McDonald's drive-in. He has taught at the Southern California Institute of Archi-

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Hess

## Districts Brace For State Budget Cuts

As school districts throughout California prepare for massive layoffs and program cuts due to the state's worsening budget crisis, the Long Beach Unified School District is implementing significant belt-tightening efforts of its own.

The aim in Long Beach is to protect employees as much as possible from the large-scale layoffs that many other districts are planning to approve next month. At the same time, every effort is being made to continue the steady and significant academic gains that local schools have seen in recent years. Achieving these goals will require sacrifice.

"As we announced last month, we are suspending all expenditures unless they are deemed absolutely essential," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, superintendent of schools. "We must avoid issuing massive numbers of those demoralizing March layoff notices. To do so, (Continued on back page)

## Tucker Elementary to Merge with MacArthur

Tucker Elementary School's students will transfer to MacArthur Elementary School in the fall, allowing the Long Beach Unified School District to use Tucker as offices for existing school programs that are currently in leased facilities.

The move is expected to save the district \$1 million in consolidation of district offices and programs.

The nearly 400 students at Tucker will join the approximately 430 students at MacArthur to create a school that actually is smaller than MacArthur once was. At its peak, MacArthur served more than 900 students.

Tucker is located at 2221 Argonne Ave. in

Long Beach. MacArthur is located at 6011 Centralia Ave. in Lakewood. The two schools are 3.8 miles apart.

The total number of buses going to MacArthur will remain about the same because they will be filled closer to capacity than they are now.

The cost-savings move is necessitated by declining enrollment and the state's budget crisis, which is requiring school districts throughout California to find ways to save limited resources.

Tucker originally opened in 1955. The facility has been used for various purposes by LBUSD throughout the years, including as a school for orthopedically handicapped children and as various offices for the school district.

The Tucker facility will once again be used for offices that are currently located elsewhere in the city. Seven portable classrooms will be relocated from Tucker to Reid Continuation High School.

After serving as office space, Tucker reopened as an overflow school more than 10 years ago to accommodate excess student enrollment created as a result of class-size reduction and a then-mushrooming student population throughout Long Beach.

Since Tucker reopened to accommodate overflow students, the school district's enrollment has declined significantly.

LBUSD's peak student population of about 97,500 students in 2002 has dropped to 88,000 students this year. Almost all of the decrease has occurred in the elementary grades.

The enrollment downturn is due in part to the fact that many young families cannot afford the high cost of housing in Southern California's coastal regions.

## Whale Tale 'Grayson' Chosen for Book Week

Each seventh grader in the Long Beach Unified School District is receiving a copy of the book "Grayson," by Lynne Cox, in preparation for the annual Long Beach Reads One Book week March 1 to 9.

The annual week-long series of events encourages everyone in Long Beach to read the same book and discuss it in a variety of venues and formats.

Local author Lynne Cox's autobiographical story details her adventures during one of her routine morning swims off the coast of Long Beach. She encounters a baby whale separated from its mother, and embarks on a quest to reunite the two. The Long Beach Public Library Foundation coordinates the book week, which involves dozens of community partners.

For local seventh graders, "Grayson" is part science lesson and part English lesson. After

reading the book, the students will participate in an essay contest. In their essays, students will explain "why we should be concerned about preserving marine life." Science teachers will grade the essays for science knowledge, and English teachers will grade the essays for proper usage and rhetoric.

Winners of the essay contest will be announced next week.

For more information, visit the Long Beach Public Library Foundation's website at <http://lbplfoundation.org>.



## • Smithsonian

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 tecture and at UCLA.

Max Alvarez has served as Film Coordinator at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. and has delivered dozens of lectures on cinema. He has presented seminars on iconic film figures, ranging from internationally-renowned directors to legendary screen actors, and seminars centered on such film genres and themes as film noir, Hollywood musicals, horror, censorship, set design and the origins of Hollywood studio systems.



**Alvarez**

David Shayt is a specialist in the division of Cultural History at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Since 1978 his focus has been on the history of American popular culture and technology. In recent years, Shayt has pursued his interest in objects from the past including metal lunch boxes, yo-yos, Silly Putty and mousetraps. Recent projects have included a field survey of bells, clocks and lighthouses in the Republics of Guyana and Sri Lanka, and the rise of the American doughnut industry.



**Shayt**

William Lawrence Bird is Curator, Division of Politics and Reform, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. His current work centers on the documentation of contemporary politics and popular culture. The Smithsonian exhibitions he has curated include Paint by Number: Accounting for Taste in the 1950s. He has been a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellow and received the Federal Design Achievement Award.



**Bird**

Participating schools include: Addams, Alvarado, Bryant, Buffum, Burroughs, Carver, Fremont, Garfield, King, Lafayette, Longfellow, Los Cerritos, Prisk, Roosevelt, and Signal Hill elementary schools; Cubberley, Monroe and Tincher K-8 schools; Hamilton and Hill Classical middle schools; and Lakewood, Millikan and Renaissance high schools.

The Arts Council for Long Beach signed an agreement with the Smithsonian Institution on behalf of the city to bring arts, culture and scholars from the nation's museums to Long Beach. Each year, the Arts Council presents a week of free in-school and community events and presentations.

Long Beach is the only city nationwide affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, the nation's first museum.

Visit [www.smithsonianweek.com](http://www.smithsonianweek.com) for more information.

## Dates to Remember

### March

	American Red Cross Month
	Music in Our Schools Month
	National Middle Level Education Month
	National Nutrition Month
	Women's History Month
	Youth Art Month
1	Korean Independence Movement Day
2	NEA's Read Across America
2-8	Newspaper In Education Week
3	Adoption of U.S. National Anthem
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
5	Black American Day
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
7	Conservation, Bird & Arbor Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "One Fine Day" and "Take the Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
7-14	Smithsonian Week
8	International Women's Day
9	Daylight Saving Time Day
9-15	Girl Scout Week
11	10:00, 1:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Struggle for Women's Rights," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Benjamin Franklin," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 20 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
23	Easter
24-28	Spring Recess
31	Cesar Chavez Day

## The Job Board

John Muir Academy is interviewing teachers for the John Muir Multiage Family of Learners, a K-7 program. Teachers work closely with 15 innovative and exciting colleagues building teamwork and leadership skills among students. Muir has a 4/5 grade multiage math/science Excel opening and a middle school 6/7 grade multiage Excel opening (multiple subject credential). Muir also has a fifth grade Excel opening. To interview, call Gerardo Gloria, principal, at ext. 7960.

## Nominate a Nurse

To nominate someone for the School Nurse of the Year award, contact Barbara Wallace at ext. 5615 for forms.

The award winner will be announced in May. Deadline for nominations is March 14.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## • Budget Cuts

(Continued from front page)  
 each of us must take the state budget crisis seriously and do our part to save our limited resources."

An ominous list of cuts is being discussed in other California school districts, where leaders describe the proposed state budget as devastating.

**San Diego** schools are preparing for up to \$80 million in cuts that will likely lead to the elimination of jobs and programs. Proposals include reducing busing and transportation for sports teams, cutting custodial hours, reducing the number of counselors and literacy coaches, eliminating full-day kindergarten and elementary music, laying off teachers and increasing class sizes.

**Oceanside** schools already laid off 15 temporary teachers and were planning further cuts.

In **Santa Ana**, \$28 million in possible cuts have been proposed. Some employees will receive a pay reduction. Some positions have already been eliminated or reassigned. A minimum of 125 part-time positions will be eliminated beginning July 1.

**San Francisco** schools face a \$40 million shortfall and are facing massive layoffs and program cuts.

**Fresno** schools are planning for \$27 million in cuts.

**Rialto** schools planned to inform 400 of the district's 1,450 teachers and counselors that they may not be employed next year.

**Orange County** parents, teachers and educators rallied this month against proposed cuts that would take \$500 million from the county's schools, forcing them to increase class sizes, cut music and the arts, eliminate after-school programs and lay off teachers.

**Lake Elsinore** schools announced an impasse this month with the California School Employees Association after negotiations came to a standstill. School district officials said they could not offer ongoing wage increases because they don't know what resources they will receive during the next two years.

School districts won't know the full impact of the state's budget crisis until California legislators approve a budget later this year.

## Cabrillo's 'Rebirth'

Cabrillo High School's 2008 Black History Show, "Rebirth: The Harlem Renaissance," celebrating art, dance, music, poetry and drama, will be presented Friday, Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door and are now on sale. Call 951-7765 or 951-7700 to purchase tickets.

## In Memoriam

**Susan Basler**  
 former library media assistant  
 Jan. 26, 2008

**William Steck**  
 choral accompanist, Poly  
 Feb. 8, 2008