



school bulletin

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

December 18, 2009



NEW SCHOOL – Foundation work has begun on a new middle school at Cherry Avenue and E. 20th Street in Signal Hill. The school is expected to serve 800 students starting fall 2011. Construction is funded through voter-approved Measure K bonds that can be used only to build and modernize schools.

School Board OKs \$17.7 Million in Cuts

The Board of Education has approved cuts to busing and summer school while budgeting for 35 students per classroom, instead of 33, in fourth and fifth grades next school year. The reductions were part of a \$17.7 million first phase of budget cuts and reallocations caused by Sacramento's ongoing fiscal crisis.

A 20 percent cut in transportation funding from the state means busing will be eliminated next school year for most students who live within walking distance of school.

The summer session for middle school students will be discontinued.

The cuts were approved after the school district received input from online budget surveys, a Budget Advisory Committee and meetings with employees, parents and others. More cuts are expected in the coming months.

Top 100 High Schools in U.S. Include CAMS

The newest ranking of America's top high schools by *U.S. News and World Report* includes the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, which earned a gold medal by placing within the top 100.

CAMS placed 22nd out of more than 21,000 public high schools nationwide. *U.S. News* published its full list of schools recently at www.usnews.com.

CAMS is a 600-student regional high school at Cal State Dominguez Hills and is run by the Long Beach Unified School District.

The *U.S. News* methodology was developed by School Evaluation Services, an education data research business run by Standard & Poor's.

A three-step process determined the best high schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using state proficiency standards as the measuring benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepared students for college.

In judging college readiness, *U.S. News* used Advanced Placement data as the benchmark for success. AP is a College Board program that offers college-level courses at high schools across the nation. A "college readiness

index" was computed based on AP participation rates and how well students performed on AP tests.

Gold medal winner CAMS accepts student applications from 80 middle schools in 11 participating districts. More than 37 percent of CAMS students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, yet they consistently achieve UC admission rates that are among the highest in California. In fact, the latest *U.S. News* rankings also list CAMS among the best economically disadvantaged schools in the nation.

CAMS also has earned the coveted National Blue Ribbon Award.

Earlier this year, *Newsweek's* annual rankings of America's top high schools included CAMS, Poly, Wilson, Millikan, Lakewood and Avalon high schools.

19 Teachers Achieve National Certification

Nineteen more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification.

The newest certifications bring the total number of nationally certified teachers in the district to 129.

The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises.

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H1N1 Vaccinations

The city's Health Department is providing free H1N1 vaccinations to priority groups by appointment.

Priority groups are people 6 months to 24 years old, those who care for infants under 6 months old, health care workers, pregnant women and adults from 25 to 64 with conditions that may result in flu complications.

Make appointments by calling 570-4103 from 8:30 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Learn more at www.longbeach.gov/health.

CSULB Wins \$900K Grant to Help Hamilton

A \$900,000 federal grant will allow California State University, Long Beach to work with Hamilton Middle School on improving student health and academic achievement.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently awarded the grant to the National Council of La Raza-Cal State Long Beach Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training.

The project, called "Youth Empowerment for Success! (YES!) Si Se Puede," will provide academic mentoring, digital media skills, career development, college preparation and physical fitness activities to students from Hamilton.

The three-year grant was one of just 12 community projects awarded nationwide. The project will run through August 2012.

Through a collaborative effort with the Fairfield Family YMCA, the project will promote physical fitness, mental well-being, violence prevention and academic success among

sixth- through eighth-grade Latino youth. CSULB students will provide weekly mentoring at the Fairfield YMCA and will welcome youth participants to campus for workshops designed to prepare them to be future college students.

"The YES! Project combines volunteer work with a rich array of campus and community resources to provide incredible support to at-risk Latino youth," said Britt Rios-Ellis, a CSULB professor of health science who directs the NCLR/CSULB Center. "We focus on Latino youth, as they, more than any other Long Beach population, are at risk for obesity, diabetes and lack adequate access to health care," Rios-Ellis said.

CSULB campus partners, including the Career Development Center, Leadership Academy, Multicultural Center, and Mi Casa Mi Universidad, will provide monthly on-campus workshops to enhance students'

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• National Board

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LBUSD supports teachers who are interested in applying for the certification by offering pre-candidacy and candidacy support throughout the application process.

The new National Board Certified teachers are Marten Axelson, Wilson; Susan Bridges, Alvarado; Ana Cervantez-Cea, King; Anthony Dao, Renaissance; Bridget Dwyer, Addams; Robert Gallandt, Music Office; Elizabeth Grace, Marshall; Mikki Hulbert Pauls, Hudson; Michelle Kaeka, Lakewood; Dalis La, Bancroft; Griselda Meza-Allani, Roosevelt; Diane Reilly, Addams; Elvia Ruiz-Lopez, Cabrillo; Joyce Sakai, Stanford; Debra Simmons, Prisk; Kelley Tenny, Cubberley; Henry Waddles, Lindbergh; Gillian Waldenfels, DeMille; and Jason Wilson, Millikan.

The 63-member National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is a nonprofit agency. The board, which consists mostly of teachers, establishes rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

Students Mail Notes, Treats to U.S. Troops

Students at Hudson K-8 School sent some holiday cheer to U.S. troops overseas recently by mailing more than 200 handwritten letters of encouragement and appreciation.

"I'm proud to be writing to someone who loves this country so much that you would risk your life. I'm in the eighth grade and I'm glad to be learning about U.S. history," wrote a Hudson student named Jourdan. "I'm sure you will miss spending Christmas in America but you should be proud of yourself for having so much courage."

Hudson's PTA helped with the letter writing campaign, delivering the letters to the nonprofit Operation Gratitude in Encino. Learn more at www.opgratitude.com.

Earlier this year, Prisk Elementary School students donated their Halloween candy for troops in Iraq. Prisk collected more than 20 large boxes of candy, and an international shipping company delivered the packages for free.

lbschools.net

Monthly Pageviews Top 1 Million Mark

The Long Beach Unified School District's official website, lbschools.net, now attracts more than a million pageviews each month.

About 12,000 people visit the website daily, up 4,000 since the site was redesigned two years ago. The site attracts 15 times the number of daily visitors it did six years ago.

Visitors to the site include cyber-surfers from all 50 states as well as 181 countries and territories.

The website last year won the Award of Excellence, the highest national honor for school district websites. The national contest attracted 107 entries in the website category. Only four sites received the top honor.

LBUSD's website is part of the school district's Strategic Plan, which includes efforts to improve communication districtwide.

Vote Set for Dec. 29 On Ellis Replacement

Voters on Tuesday, Dec. 29 will pick a replacement for former school board member Michael Ellis, who resigned from his District 3 seat in August.

Ellis' four-year term was set to expire next July. The Long Beach City Charter requires a special election to fill the seat. The winner will serve for the remainder of Ellis' unexpired term.

District 3 includes Chavez, Edison, International, Lee, Lincoln, Stevenson and Whittier elementary schools, along with Franklin Classical Middle School and Renaissance High School for the Arts.

Five candidates are vying for the open seat. The special election is winner-take-all. No runoff is required even if the candidate with the most votes falls short of a 50 percent majority.

More information on the election and candidates is available at www.lavote.net. Click on the Dec. 29 election, listed under Highlights.

Dates to Remember

January

	School Board Recognition Month
1	New Year's Day
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
5	Dr. George Washington Carver Day
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
13	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 14 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry: Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
17	World Religion Day
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
20	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Dare To Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
22	10:00, 11:20, 12:20— "First Moon: Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Thomas Edison," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
29	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FELTON WILLIAMS, Vice President

DAVID BARTON, Member

JON MEYER, Member

TREVOR KELLOGG, Student Member

• Help for Hamilton

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academic and career development, and to boost leadership and violence prevention skills.

During the summer, participants will receive full scholarships to the CSULB Academic Enrichment Camp and the 49er Sports Camp to strengthen academic development and engage in recreational and sporting activities.

Project staff are recruiting a CSULB graduate and four undergraduate students to serve as interns and mentors. The university also is recruiting Hamilton student participants. CSULB interns will receive training in community participatory research methodology and mentoring skills.

Call the NCLR/CSULB Center at 985-5312 for more information.

Other Districts Aim to Lower Pay, Cut Jobs

The Los Angeles Unified School District's initial budget plan calls for up to 8,000 layoffs by next fall. The plan responds to L.A. Unified's projected deficit of nearly half a billion dollars, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Meanwhile the Capistrano Unified School District announced plans for a 10 percent pay cut for teachers.

The L.A. Unified proposal arrived even as 20,000 employees there agreed to four unpaid furlough days from February to May. L.A. Unified also proposed a 12 percent pay cut for employees.

Orange County's Capistrano district proposed cutting teachers' pay 10 percent retroactive to July by deducting it from upcoming paychecks.

Job Share Deadlines

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for next school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

Jan. 11 — Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

March 1 — Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services. For more information, contact Karen Ensich at ext. 8106.

Retirement Seminar

Another general CalSTRS retirement seminar has been scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11 at the Administration Building, Room 143.

The presentation will include an explanation of the CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation, and disability and survivor benefits. This presentation is particularly important for members who are eligible for retirement. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Attendance is limited. RSVP by Friday, Jan. 8 at ext. 8214.