



# school bulletin

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

February 19, 2010

## New Harvard Book Touts Long Beach

The first book to detail examples of successful large-scale reform in the nation's most improved urban districts is now available from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's publishing group, and it features the Long Beach Unified School District.

*Bringing School Reform to Scale: Five Award-Winning School Districts*, from Harvard Education Press, describes specific district-wide reform strategies that author and researcher Heather Zavadsky shows led

Broad Prize-winning school districts to outpace their peers in raising student achievement – not just in individual schools – but in numerous schools districtwide.

The annual \$2 million Broad Prize honors the five large urban school districts that demonstrate the strongest student achievement and improvement while narrowing achievement gaps between income and ethnic groups.

Of particular use to educators seeking federal funds under Race to the Top, the new book describes sustained efforts undertaken by Broad Prize-winning school districts in Long Beach, Boston, Garden Grove, Norfolk (Va.) and Aldine (Houston) to improve instruction.

For superintendents, chief academic officers, education school professors, school board members and elected officials or advocacy organizations looking to produce large-scale, dramatic student achievement gains, this book shows what systemic districtwide improvement looks like “on the ground, warts and all, and the outcomes that are possible,” according to a statement from The Broad Foundation.

Among the book's important lessons for policy makers: 1) the single most important contributor to the success of these districts was their effort to put in place a clear, direct and rigorous curriculum aligned with high standards and supported at various layers

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## Paperless Bulletin

In an effort to save money, trees and clerical staff time, the *School Bulletin* will no longer be distributed in hard-copy form. The school district had already reduced the number of hard copies when the *Bulletin* began electronic distribution nearly two years ago. Starting with this edition, the *Bulletin* completes its transition to electronic distribution only. The latest switch saves about \$6,000 a year.

The newsletter still remains available in printable format at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).



## Board OKs Layoff Notices for 755 Positions

The Board of Education this week approved layoff notices for 755 positions, including K-12 teachers, counselors, social workers, assistant or vice principals, and adult school educators. The notices are part of the Long Beach Unified School District's ongoing effort to balance its budget in light of unprecedented state cuts to education funding.

“This is probably the worst day of my professional career,” Superintendent of Schools Christopher J. Steinhauser said at Tuesday's school board meeting. “This is truly the fault of Sacramento and their abandoning of public schools in this state.”

Ever since Steinhauser became superintendent in 2002, LBUSD has cut its budget each year, with the exception of one year.

“The time has come to tell Sacramento that this has to stop,” Steinhauser said.

The school district is strongly pushing state and federal policy makers to provide complete flexibility to LBUSD so that it may use its increasingly limited funds as it sees fit, rather than follow archaic mandates established by lawmakers hundreds of miles away, the superintendent said.

The school district had hoped for an early  
(Continued on next page)

## Signal Hill, International Earn State Honors

Signal Hill and International elementary schools recently earned the Title I Academic Achievement Award. The award goes to schools that, despite having large numbers of disadvantaged students, continue to make exemplary progress.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced the 238 winners.

“These award recipients prove that with hard work and high expectations, students can overcome challenges and achieve academic success,” O'Connell said. “By working together, administrators, teachers, staff, students and parents have raised student achievement and narrowed the achievement gap.”

The award is given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds. Title I is the single largest federal program for K-12 public education. Title I funds help schools meet the needs of students living in poverty.

To earn the award, a school must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. The school's socioeconomically disadvantaged students also must have doubled the achievement targets set for them for two consecutive years.

This year's winners will be honored at a reception and banquet at the Disneyland Hotel on April 21.

## Long Beach Reads One Book March 3 to 14

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation's 9th Annual Long Beach Reads One Book campaign features *The Soloist*, the best-selling story by Steve Lopez about the redemptive power of music.

A variety of events are scheduled Wednesday, March 3 through Sunday, March 14.

Long Beach Reads One Book encourages everyone in the community to read the same book and discuss it in various venues. High school and college students will participate.

The book begins with author Steve Lopez watching Nathaniel Ayers play his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles' Skid Row. Lopez envisions this “Violin Man” as the topic of his next column for the *Los Angeles Times*, but unearths an even more extraordinary story about the street musician.

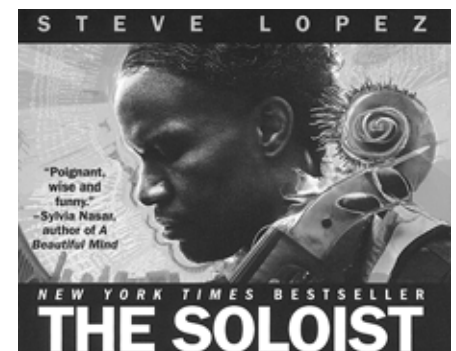
More than 30 years earlier, Ayers had been a promising classical bass student at prestigious Juilliard, until he lost his ability to function due to a mental breakdown.

Jordan High School will host a 10 a.m. seminar on the March 3 opening day of the citywide reading campaign, when author Steve Lopez and the chair of Cal State Long Beach's Journalism Department will work with LBUSD

journalism students.

Another opening day public event – An Evening With Steve Lopez – takes place 7 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, where the Poly High School Chamber Orchestra will start the evening with a Beethoven-inspired program.

Several other events involving local students are planned. For more information, visit [www.lbplfoundation.org](http://www.lbplfoundation.org).



## • Layoff Notices

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retirement incentive to lessen the impact of layoffs but announced that insufficient numbers of teachers signed up for the plan.

State law requires certificated layoff notices to be received by March 15, and final notices to be received by May 15. The number of final notices will depend on factors such as retirements, resignations, the state budget and concessions in bargaining.

The list of layoff notices is in the Feb. 16 school board agenda at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net). The school district on Feb. 10 distributed information for employees affected by layoffs. This information remains available under Budget Update at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).

## Summer School Jobs

Applications are being accepted for a limited number of summer school jobs.

- Certificated openings are in special education and at the high school level. Applicants for certificated positions must receive satisfactory evaluations and hold a valid, up-to-date credential for the appropriate level or subject to be taught. Applications are available at all schools and business offices and at [TeachLongBeach.com](http://TeachLongBeach.com), under "For Current Employees." Applications must be submitted by March 12 to Human Resource Services, Attn: Summer School. For information, call ext. 8386.

- A limited number of classified summer school openings is available. Check the Personnel Commission webpage for summer openings and to download an application. All applications and information sheets must be attached together and sent directly to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. The deadline is 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 19. For information, call ext. 7285.

## Names in the News

- Five paraeducators from Rogers Middle School recently earned honors from the Council for Exceptional Children. The Council is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or special gifts and talents. Paraeducators include college aides, instructional aides and others who work one-on-one or with small groups of students under the direction of a teacher. Earning the Paraeducator Award were **Gillian Collier**, **Tami Bent**, **Abel Dominguez**, **Debra Collier** and **Adrienne Rambo**.

- Lakewood High School senior **Jeff Derouso** recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the Boy Scouts' highest honor. Jeff is the son of Longfellow intermediate office assistant **Karen Derouso**.

## In Memoriam

**Ray Ewing**  
teacher, Jordan  
Feb. 15, 2010



## Be Counted When U.S. Census Starts

Be sure your family is counted when the 2010 U.S. Census kicks off this spring. The nationwide tally takes place every 10 years, and the results determine how federal funds are spent for schools, highways, housing, health, social services, economic stimulus and more.

In local schools, Census data also help to determine funding for breakfast and lunch programs, special education, college grants and loan programs. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

The Census Bureau will deliver questionnaires to all U.S. households in March. You can help make sure the count is accurate by filling out and returning this short form by Census Day, April 1, 2010. The form consists of 10 questions, takes 10 minutes and affects 10 years' worth of funding for our schools. If you don't return the form in time, Census volunteers will knock on your door to offer help.

The Long Beach Unified School District is partnering with the Census to allow distribution of informational fliers to parents. Schools may also consider having a "Census in Schools Week" to raise awareness.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census to determine the number of seats each state will have in the House of Representatives.

Visit [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools) for more information.

## Coffee With Chris

The Coffee With Chris meeting scheduled for Monday, March 8 has been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 12 in the Millikan High School Library. These informal meetings encourage dialogue between employees and Superintendent of Schools Christopher J. Steinhauser. See the meeting schedule at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) under Coffee With Chris in the A-Z index.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## • Harvard Book

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throughout the system, 2) data-driven teaching and testing empowered teachers and led to student gains, and 3) stable school district governance, in the form of mayoral control or a unified school board, was critical to success.

"This book offers an unusually detailed look inside some of our best run school districts. Heather Zavadsky offers honest assessments, highlighting not only the inspiring successes, but also the many daunting challenges that remain. Very enlightening!" said Ronald F. Ferguson, faculty co-chair and director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard.

The book's author, Zavadsky, is director of policy and communications for the Institute for Public School Initiatives for the University of Texas system. She led research teams through site visits and analysis of Broad Prize districts from 2002 to 2006.

To order the book, visit [www.hepg.org](http://www.hepg.org).

## Dates to Remember

<b>March</b>	American Red Cross Month Music in Our Schools Month National Middle Level Education Month National Nutrition Month Social Work Month Women's History Month Youth Art Month
<b>1-5</b>	Newspaper in Education Week
<b>1-7</b>	Week of the School Administrator
<b>2</b>	NEA's Read Across America
<b>2</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The American Parade: We the Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
<b>3</b>	Adoption of U.S. National Anthem
<b>3</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
<b>4</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
<b>5</b>	Black American Day
<b>5</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "One Fine Day" and "Take the Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
<b>7</b>	California Conservation, Bird and Arbor Day
<b>7-13</b>	Girl Scout Week
<b>8</b>	International Women's Day
<b>9-10</b>	Elementary Conference Days
<b>9</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Struggle for Women's Rights," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
<b>10</b>	10:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Benjamin Franklin," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
<b>11</b>	Johnny Appleseed Day
<b>11</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
<b>12</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
<b>14</b>	Daylight Savings Time Day
<b>16</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
<b>17</b>	St. Patrick's Day
<b>17</b>	Camp Fire USA Birthday
<b>17</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 18 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
<b>19</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
<b>20</b>	First Day of Spring
<b>22-26</b>	Public Schools Week
<b>23</b>	Open House—Middle Schools
<b>24</b>	Open House—High Schools
<b>25</b>	Open House—Elementary Schools
<b>30-31</b>	Passover, First Days
<b>30</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cesar Chavez," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
<b>31</b>	Cesar Chavez Day
<b>31</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8

## Classy Kindergarten

Kindergartners at Cleveland Elementary School collected coins recently for good causes. They filled their "giving jar" with more than \$120 in spare change. After counting their change, the students produced a bar graph to decide upon their favorite charities. The money was donated to Miller Children's Hospital and the Long Beach Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.