



school bulletin

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

April 30, 2010

Three LBUSD Schools Earn Top State Honor

Carver, Longfellow and Naples elementary schools are among 484 California Distinguished Schools announced recently by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. The schools were recognized for academic excellence and closing achievement gaps.

Thirty-nine LBUSD schools have now won this top state honor. Longfellow and Naples are repeat winners. For Carver, the state award holds special meaning because it is the school's first such award, and because last year the school's principal, Lisa Stephenson, died after a long struggle with cancer. She had worked at the school for less than two years, succeeding Judy McEachen, who retired and then also passed away.

"Our staff was in tears, they were so excited



about this accomplishment," said Carver Principal Jennifer Rodarte, who shared one teacher's observation that "Lisa Stephenson and Judy McEachen are looking upon us now."

The changes in leadership at Carver, coupled with continuing budget cuts and, more recently, the teacher layoff notices caused by the state budget crisis, made Carver's win all the more incredible, the principal said.

"After all of these difficulties, with everyone worried about their jobs, this award announcement was such a welcome sprinkle of happiness," Rodarte said. "Through all of these challenges, our teachers rose above and raised achievement. These teachers work together as a family and a team. It's all about the strength of the teachers, and (Continued on next page)

LBUSD Helps Host National Conference

The Long Beach Unified School District will help host the 5th Annual National Center for Urban School Transformation's High Performing Urban Schools Symposium from May 5 to 7 at the Renaissance Long Beach Hotel.

The event's keynote speaker will be Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. LBUSD Superintendent of Schools Christopher J. Steinhauser will welcome attendees and present information with Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams regarding Long Beach's successful efforts to improve urban schools.

The closing keynote address will be delivered by Carl Cohn, former superintendent in Long Beach and San Diego.

Downtown Long Beach's International Elementary School is one of 13 schools to earn NCUST's National Excellence in Urban Education Award this year. School officials will accept the award at the NCUST conference. To be eligible for the honor, schools must have high numbers of low-income students yet achieve results that are better than the state average on required assessments.

NCUST is a part of the QUALCOMM Institute for Innovation and Educational Success at San Diego State University.

Register for the symposium at www.ncust.org.

Classified Employees See 90 Positions Cut

The Board of Education approved the elimination of 90 classified positions at its regular meeting last week. Another 78 classified employees will see their hours reduced, in some cases by more than half.

The school board's unanimous decision on the reductions is a response to the state's ongoing, multi-billion-dollar cuts to public education.

More than half of the affected employees could be assigned to other positions that have become vacant due to retirements or resignations.

Most of the affected employees have been contacted by telephone by Personnel Commission staff and will receive related paperwork by the end of next week. Classified employees are provided at least 45 days of notice on layoffs.

The Personnel Commission is working with affected employees to offer displacement services, including job and testing counseling to help workers find other positions, preferably within the school district, but also with other public agencies.

Affected employees may contact Maria Lynn Braunstein, coordinator of displacement services, at ext. 7426 for more information.

The latest round of classified job cuts included 18 positions in Maintenance and an equal number of office workers, seven employees in Nutrition Services, 10 transportation aides, 11 instructional aides, eight custodians, three groundskeepers, one library-media assistant, five campus security officers, two warehouse employees and others. About 10 of the jobs are supervisory or managerial positions.

Final Notices Loom on Certificated Layoffs

A series of public hearings on layoffs for hundreds of teachers and other certificated employees concludes May 3 to 4 in the Wilson Classical High School auditorium.

More than 800 certificated employees have been notified by the school district that they may be laid off next school year due to state budget cuts. During the hearing process, an administrative law judge helps to determine which of those employees receive final layoff notices.

Meanwhile the Board of Education's regular May 4 meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, May 11, where the board likely will be asked to approve final layoffs of certificated staff members who did not request a hearing. These employees would receive their final notices between May 11 and May 14.

Certificated employees who did request a hearing will be notified of their status after the May 15 deadline. The reason for the delayed notice is that one of the original hearing dates was set for Friday, April 16. This date was a furlough day for the court system. Therefore, the April 16 hearing date was continued to May 3 and 4, which pushes back the May 15 deadline to the number of days from April 16 to May 3. The school board would likely then approve the layoff list of those respondents (employees who are participating in the hearing process), at either the May 18 meeting or at a special meeting that could be called on May 25, depending upon when the administrative law judge submits his decisions. Respondents will receive their final notices no later than Friday, May 28.



CLOSE SHAVE — Sixth graders Gaspar Garza, left, and Nic Cornejo were among more than 150 Cubberley K-8 School students, parents and others who raised \$35,000 for cancer research by volunteering to have their heads shaved as part of "St. Baldrick's Day." Story on next page.

LBUSD's Funding Bill Clears Key Committee

A school funding flexibility bill initiated by the Long Beach Unified School District has cleared the Senate Education Committee by a 7-0 vote with bipartisan support.

LBUSD partnered with State Sen. Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) to introduce the bill, SB 1396, in February as a way to mitigate ongoing, multi-billion-dollar cuts in state funding for education. The school district also hopes to use the legislation to save jobs here, as hundreds of LBUSD teachers and other employees face layoffs for next school year.

SB 1396 relaxes regulations on the spending of "categorical funds," which are allocated via strict state funding formulas that earmark dollars for specific educational programs. School districts have long argued that because of the inflexibility regarding the use of these funds, public schools cannot efficiently manage their resources.

The Education Committee's Chair, Sen. Gloria Romero (D-Los Angeles), asked to be added as a co-author of the bill. The bill will be heard next in the Senate Appropriations Committee, which is chaired by Sen. Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego). That 11-member committee will likely take up the bill within the coming days.

"We thank senators Romero, Lowenthal and their fellow legislators who, by supporting our bill, recognize that we can no longer defend the status quo," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBUSD superintendent of schools.

"It's time to give our schools the flexibility we need to make the best use of our increasingly limited resources," Steinhauser said. "This bill will create a pilot program with great accountability, and it will help us to accelerate the closing of achievement gaps."

Sen. Lowenthal called SB 1396's passage by the committee "a small victory for students, teachers and school districts," describing the bill as "a starting point for an honest debate for the future of education funding."

"Frankly, I believe that debate is long overdue," Lowenthal said. "Categorical program funding, coupled with budget cuts to education have jeopardized student programs as well as

teacher jobs by tying the hands of how school districts may spend their money."

The bill will allow school districts to better address local needs, as long as the districts continue to meet state benchmarks on student achievement, the senator said.

"I truly believe this program will demonstrate that state money for categorical programs can be managed more efficiently and responsibly at the local level while making progress in closing the achievement gap and saving teacher jobs," Lowenthal said.

The pilot program will begin in 2011 and run through 2014. The participating school districts must demonstrate measurable student progress and annually report to state officials.

Cubberley Nets \$35K For Cancer Research

More than 150 students, parents and others recently raised \$35,000 for childhood cancer research by volunteering to have their heads shaved as part of a "St. Baldrick's Day" event that has become a tradition at the school.

The Cubberley event was part of a national fundraising effort by the nonprofit St. Baldrick's Foundation (the name combines "St. Patrick's Day" and "bald") that coordinates events nationwide where volunteers have their heads shaved in solidarity with children who are fighting cancer. Donors pledge money for each shaved head.

Cubberley's event was No. 1 in California and No. 2 in the nation for the number of kids participating. This year's event included 38 members of Lakewood High School's baseball program.

Proceeds from the Cubberley event benefit the Miller Children's Hospital/Jonathan Jaques Children's Cancer Center (at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center).

Kids' Fair on May 8

The "Ready, Set, Go" family resource fair for incoming kindergartners and their parents has been rescheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8 at Stephens Middle School.

The free fair includes immunizations, health screenings, community agency booths, activities for children, free children's books and prizes.

For information, call 422-6868, ext. 231.

Literacy Teacher is Among Best in U.S.

Long Beach teacher Rosa Hernandez was named as a runner up for the national 2010 Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year award recently at the National Conference on Family Literacy in San Antonio. Hernandez, an early childhood educator, has been working at the Long Beach Family Literacy Program for 14 years. The program is located at the Long Beach School for Adults.

Hernandez reached finalist status in 2008 and went on to reach runner-up status this year out of a pool of five top educators in the nation.

The honors go to educators who demonstrate extraordinary efforts to improve the literacy skills of children and their parents.

"I was very honored and surprised," Hernandez said of the runner-up notification. "What I do every day comes from the bottom of my heart."

Hernandez teaches children and their parents literacy and life skills. In Long Beach Family Literacy, parents join their preschool children in class for two days each week, learning how to support their education. The parents also take computer literacy, parenting and English as a Second Language classes at the same time on the Long Beach School for Adults campus where their children attend.

• State Honor

(Continued from first page)
how united they are about doing what's best for kids."

State Superintendent O'Connell acknowledged some of the tough challenges that the winning schools have overcome.

"It is an honor to recognize the schools, and the students, parents, teachers and administrators who helped earn this most prestigious distinction," O'Connell said.

"These schools have persevered despite state budget cutbacks that have cut deeply into the budgets of local school districts," O'Connell said. "I encourage educators throughout our state to review the signature practices that Distinguished Schools are using to improve student achievement."

Winners were identified for eligibility on the basis of state and federal data, and how well they closed achievement gaps.

All applicants underwent a stringent selection process conducted by the California Department of Education with the help of many educators throughout the state.

The winning schools will be honored during an awards ceremony and dinner at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim on June 4.

Dates to Remember

May	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
	Better Hearing and Speech Month
	National Sight-Saving Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1-7	National Physical Education Week
2-8	National Teacher Appreciation Week
4	National Teacher Day
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
8	VE Day
9	Mothers Day
10-16	National Children's Book Week
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
12	California Day of the Teacher
12	National School Nurse Day
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
15	Armed Forces Day
16-22	Classified Employee Week
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
21	Classified Employee Day
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 27 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
31	Memorial Day

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Charles "Jack" Mertz

former teacher

April 6, 2010

Alex Sansberry

former teacher

April 18, 2010