



# school bulletin

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

September 10, 2010

## Students Make Progress Despite Tough Times

By Christopher J. Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

Much has happened since I last wrote here in June.

Most importantly, we learned that the latest student performance results for 2010 show a continuing upward trend in almost all grade levels and subject areas. The results include double-digit growth in proficiency. In some cases the growth is extraordinary.

The number of fifth graders achieving proficiency or advanced proficiency in math and science, for instance, has increased by 38 percent and 39 percent respectively since 2003, based upon the new numbers. That's a significant increase.



Many more students are taking and passing algebra in eighth grade, and hundreds more students are taking and passing rigorous Advanced Placement courses and exams.

These results are even more extraordinary considering that we've made huge cuts to our budget during seven of the last eight years, including more than \$100 million in cuts during the past three years alone. Despite the worst economic downturn in decades, we're still finding a way to get the job done thanks to your heroic efforts.

At the same time, we all know that times are tough for California's public schools. Our state still hasn't passed a budget. California missed out on federal Race to the Top funds this summer, and unfortunately the state legislation we sponsored to allow us greater spending flexibility has stalled in the Assembly. But there is some good news. Congress this summer passed a jobs bill that promises to bring significant funding to our schools. While this funding will not solve our ongoing fiscal challenges, it may help considerably. We'll keep you posted as we learn more details.

We've received major grants this summer for leadership training and other professional development, including a Teaching American History Grant, and we have established important partnerships with organizations such as the Boeing and GE foundations.

We're also encouraged that our Academic

## Budget Update

The Board of Education unanimously approved more than \$20 million in budget savings and fund transfers this week in a continuing response to the state's multi-billion-dollar cuts to public education.

A description of the changes is available at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) under Budget Update.

and Career Success Initiative continues full speed ahead, with more students enrolling in college and taking advantage of our College Promise, including guaranteed admission to Cal State Long Beach and a free first semester starting this fall at Long Beach City College.

I acknowledge that we start this school year with hundreds fewer teachers and other vital employees than last year – the direct result of the state's chronic under funding of education. I also recognize that many of our remaining employees are making sacrifices this year, including five unpaid furlough days. Now more than ever, your continued best efforts on behalf of our students are appreciated not only by me, but also by our Board of Education and thousands of grateful parents and students.

We must not be discouraged. Our work is too important. Through it all, we continue to have a positive, lasting impact upon thousands of students and their families.

With deepest appreciation for all that you do, I wish you a safe and successful year.

## New Assignments Fill 49 Key Posts

A total of 49 administrators will take on new assignments at schools and offices in the Long Beach Unified School District this fall.

Promoted to principal at Monroe is Mark Curran, former assistant principal at Jefferson. Promoted to acting principal are Armando Duenas, Madison, who was vice principal at Lee; Caroline Nemecek, Lee, who was vice principal at Roosevelt; Maria Pilar Perossio, Franklin, who was assistant principal at Washington; and Nicole Howton-Chiles, Holmes, who was vice principal at Barton.

Reassigned to principal are Thomas Espinoza, from McKinley to Birney; David Taylor, from Franklin to McKinley; Jeff Wood, from Birney to Gant; Wendy Clafin, from Hudson to Powell; Avery Hall, from Lindbergh to Hoover; Cathleen Imbroane, from Monroe to Hudson; Michael Navia, from Cubberley to Marshall; Sparkle Peterson, from Powell to

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## First Again: LBUSD Pilots iPad Algebra App

The Long Beach Unified School District this week helped to launch a year-long pilot project allowing students to use the first-ever interactive algebra curriculum app for iPad.

The innovative effort began on the first day of school as California Secretary of Education Bonnie Reiss, local school board members and the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt textbook publishing company introduced a class of eighth graders at Washington Middle School to their very own iPads. The devices came with a digi-

tal textbook and custom app that the publishing company calls "the most sophisticated use of the iPad's interactive technology in K-12 learning to date."

Two classes at Washington, and two at Hudson K-8 school, will be among the select few to pilot the software. In all, 400 students from Long Beach, Fresno, Riverside and San Francisco will participate in the one-year pilot, which will compare the students' algebra

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**HIGH TECH —** Washington Middle School students tried out their new iPads on the first day of school as part of a pilot program that uses a digital textbook to help teach algebra. Students can record notes with voice memos, use the touch screen to handwrite or type and save notes, re-learn lessons with videos, and receive instant feedback on practice questions.



## • iPad Project

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performance with that of peers who use traditional textbooks. Long Beach was the first to launch the pilot, marking yet another innovation for the school district that pioneered reforms such as school uniforms and many elements of standards-based, data-driven instruction.

Through Apple Inc.'s hand-held, mobile iPad device, students receive instant feedback on practice questions, write and save notes, receive guided instruction, access video lessons and more with the touch of a finger. The app's three-dimensional functionality combines instruction, ongoing support and intervention, allowing teachers and students to customize learning and meet individual needs.

"The nation and the world are watching what you're doing here," Secretary Reiss told the Washington students during a launch ceremony. "I'm very pleased to welcome the first interactive algebra textbook to our schools. Long Beach, Riverside, Fresno and San Francisco students will show the world that we can and must harness technology to maximize academic achievement."

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt developed the app, called HMH Fuse. The company also covered the cost of the software and most of the iPads.

Learn more at [www.hmhpublish.com](http://www.hmhpublish.com).

## Whooping Cough

Due to an epidemic of whooping cough (pertussis) affecting California, the Long Beach Health Department is recommending a booster shot (called "Tdap") for all children ages 11 to 18. Parents of children who have not had their booster shot may contact their health care provider about getting one as soon as possible.

Learn more at [www.longbeach.gov/health](http://www.longbeach.gov/health).

## Dates to Remember

### September

9	Library Card Sign-Up Month
9-10	Admission Day
10	Rosh Hashanah
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Getting to School the Safe Way," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
11	Patriot Day
12	Grandparents Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
15-Oct. 15	Hispanic Heritage Month
15-16	Mexican Independence Days
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Native American Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
17	Citizenship Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Follow Instructions," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
17-23	Constitution Week
18	Yom Kippur
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Staying Out of Trouble With Your Friends (Duffy's Story)," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
22	Back to School Night — Elementary Schools
22	First Day of Autumn
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Pocahontas," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
24	California Native American Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: A Lunch Room Goes Bananas," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
28	Back to School Night — Middle Schools
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Columbus," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
29	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christopher Columbus," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8



Curran



Howton-Chiles



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## • 49 Employees Reassigned, Promoted

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Butler; Teri Rennard, from Butler to Cubberley; and Tim Spivey, from DeMille to Lindbergh. Sally Gregory becomes principal at Hughes; she was program administrator in the High School Office. Monica Daley becomes principal of instruction at Millikan; she was principal at Hughes.

Megan Traver was promoted to acting assistant principal at Washington; she was a teacher at Franklin. Renny Chu was promoted to 50 percent acting assistant principal at Washington/50 percent acting administrative assistant for the Superintendent's Office; he was a teacher at Jordan.

Reassigned assistant principals are Ernest Chavez, from Washington to Butler; Beth Cohen, from Franklin to Marshall; Jose Gonzales, from Stephens to Lindsey; Barbara Gilmore, from CAMS to Jordan Academy; William Salas, from Jordan to Wilson; Roshann Williams, from Hamilton to Wilson; and Albert Gallo, from Lindbergh to 50 percent Lindbergh/50 percent Jefferson. Cecilia Santos-Camerino returns from a leave of absence to become assistant principal at Stephens.

Vice principals reassigned to assistant principal positions are Troy Bennett, from Butler to Hamilton; Kimberley Dalton, from Tincher to Jefferson; Heidi Dalton Sklarz, from Hudson to Hoover; Wendy Sowinski, from 50 percent McKinley/50 percent King to Franklin; and Donald Williams, from Powell to Marshall.

Sarah Forrester was promoted to acting vice principal at Lincoln; she was teacher on special assignment at PALMS. Kenneth Weber was promoted to 50 percent vice principal at Dooley/50 percent acting Magnet Schools Assistance Grant coordinator; he was program facilitator at Dooley.

Reassigned vice principals are Lorena Moreno, from Robinson to 50 percent Powell/50 percent Robinson; Cassandra Richards, from Cubberley to 50 percent Cubberley/50 percent

Tincher; and David Komatz, from Lafayette to Roosevelt. Assistant principals reassigned as vice principals are Karen Grunst, from DeMille to 50 percent Muir/50 percent Hudson; and Gayle Maher-Hall, from DeMille to 50 percent Monroe/50 percent Newcomb. Angela Demola-Marcano becomes 50 percent vice principal at King/50 percent assistant director, Special Projects; she was program administrator, Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

Michael Gray was promoted to head counselor at EPHS; he was counselor at Stephens. Jennifer Carey was promoted to head counselor at Avalon; she was counselor at Lindbergh.

Kristi Kahl was promoted to acting director, 50 percent Research/50 percent PLC Schools; she was program administrator in the Superintendent's Office. Rosemary Shallenberger (Perry) was promoted to deputy director, Research; she was administrative assistant, Research.

Robert Tagorda was promoted to acting program administrator for GEAR UP; he was administrative assistant in the Superintendent's Office. David Zaid was promoted to administrative assistant in the Elementary Schools Office; he was program specialist in the Elementary Schools Office.

Miriam Garcia becomes program administrator, 25 percent Reading First-CDC/75 percent Special Education; she was program administrator, CDC. Wayne Wong becomes assistant director, Special Projects; he was program administrator, Special Projects. Tom Malkus becomes program administrator, Leadership Development (Superintendent's Office); he was principal at Lee.

## In Memoriam

**George Hinzo**  
instructional aide, Barton  
July 19, 2010

**Tracey Condon**  
teacher, Carver  
July 24, 2010

**Anne Logue**  
teacher, Cubberley  
July 25, 2010

**Michael Shelnut**  
teacher, Cabrillo  
Aug. 10, 2010

**Lawrence Connors**  
teacher, Carver  
Aug. 18, 2010

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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