



school bulletin

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

February 18, 2011



HELPING HAND — Long Beach Police Chief Jim McConnell handed out new backpacks filled with school supplies during a recent Kindergarten Festival at Chavez Elementary School. The event was the first of four Saturday festivals for incoming 2011-12 kindergartners and their families. The upcoming festivals are 9 a.m. to noon March 5 at Jefferson Leadership Academies, April 2 at Hughes Middle School, and May 14 at Dooley Elementary School. Call 997-8000, ext. 8646 for more information.

North Long Beach Survey Now Online

It's not too late for North Long Beach residents to make their voices heard about the future of their community. The Long Beach Unified School District is spearheading a community planning effort that will guide policy making in North Long Beach. Visit lbschools.net and click on North Long Beach Survey to take a 15-minute survey about community needs.

The survey will be available until Feb. 28. The North Long Beach Initiative planning effort was launched last month, and a broad-based Advisory Committee was convened.

At a series of recent community forums, participants learned how LBUSD's upcoming \$105 million renovation of Jordan High School could become a centerpiece of community revitalization. Parents, students and others completed the same electronic surveys that are now available online.

The school district will convene small focus groups to explore community needs identified in the survey results.

For more information, contact Robert Tagorda at 997-8479.

School Board Cuts \$24.4 Million and 778 Jobs

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this week cut another \$24.4 million and 778 jobs in response to the state's unmitigated budget disaster.

The recent cuts come only two weeks after the school board here cut about \$27 million. Together, this month's cuts will affect almost every aspect of K-12 education here in California's third largest school district.

The local cuts are part of the school district's efforts to plan for a worst-case state budget scenario that would occur if voters statewide do not approve the extension of certain taxes that were set to expire.

Unfortunately, even with the latest cuts, the

school district's worst-case scenario just got even worse.

In its recent worst-case calculations, Long Beach Unified had assumed that its funding would be cut by about \$634 per student if the state's voters reject the tax extensions. Since those calculations, however, the state's non-partisan Legislative Analyst Office has determined that schools would lose roughly \$760 per student. If the tax extensions are approved, the school district would lose only about \$19 per pupil.

This week's action by the local school board includes the potential elimination of
(Continued on next page)

Sky's the Limit for STAR Elementary Schools

The Long Beach Unified School District honored nine of its elementary schools recently with STAR Awards for significant gains in student achievement.

This year's winners are Addams, Alvarado, Burbank, Burnett, Fremont, Lafayette, Longfellow, Madison and Willard elementary schools.

"Congratulations to our STAR schools, which represent a wide variety of geographic areas in our school district," said Jill Baker, assistant superintendent for elementary, middle and K-8 schools. "During a time of great challenges, the teachers, support staff, parents and students at these schools have persevered. We salute their relentless efforts and their amazing accomplishments."

Winning schools were joined by Board of Education members and other school district officials during the awards ceremony at Hill Classical Middle School.

Schools can follow one of two paths to win the STAR Award (Student Success + Terrific Teaching = Academic Results).

Path one includes a state Academic Performance Index (API) of 850 to 950 on a scale of 1,000; API growth; significant Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) growth in English, math or combined; and positive gains in all areas.

Path two includes an API of up to 850; an API growth target that has at least tripled; significant AYP growth in English or math; and positive gains in all areas.

Israel, Japan Ask to Visit Long Beach Schools

Delegations from Israel and Japan have joined a growing list of international media and educators seeking to learn about the Long Beach Unified School District's innovations and successes.

LBUSD received an inquiry last week from Israel's Channel 10 News, where the documentary program "Hamakor" is planning to feature Long Beach schools. Israeli journalist Tal Granot said her country's latest international rankings on student performance were disappointing.

"During our research we read about 'The Long Beach Way,' which aroused our curiosity, and of course encouraged us to contact you, hoping that this example will inspire Israeli decision makers and will have an influence on the future of our children."

The title of the Israeli program "Hamakor" has double meaning in Hebrew: "The Source," and "The Original." The program is considered to be the Israeli equivalent of America's "60 Minutes."

Also scheduled to visit Long Beach schools are officials from the Japanese Ministry of

Education, who are interested in a pilot project that has provided iPads to algebra students at Washington Middle School and Hudson K-8 School. The year-long pilot program allows students to use the first-ever interactive algebra
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Most Visits to lbschools.net*

1. United States
2. Canada
3. India
4. United Kingdom
5. Germany
6. Mexico
7. Philippines
8. France
9. Italy
10. Japan

*Jan. 11 to Feb. 10, 2011



LIFE LESSON – Students from the Millikan High School COMPASS small learning community perform in colonial garb at LBUSD’s Bethune Transitional Center for homeless students. COMPASS emphasizes the arts and social sciences, and it helps students connect with real world situations.

• Budget Cuts

(Continued from first page)
778 positions. Most of those jobs are teaching positions, including about 429 jobs that will be lost due to increased class sizes in all grades.
For grades six to 12, average class sizes will increase by three students to 35. For grades K-3, classes will increase by between five and 10 students (depending on the school) for an average of 30 students per class. The increased class sizes, along with the closure of two elementary schools, were part of the \$27 million in cuts approved earlier this month.
This week’s cuts included even more teaching positions, along with job losses for school administrators, librarians, nurses, psychologists, counselors and others. Central office reductions will include more than \$1 million in transportation cuts.
Among the transportation cuts will be a reduction in elementary school busing made possible by class size increases that allow previously overflowing schools to keep more of their neighborhood students.
Bus service to Bancroft, Rogers, Stephens, Hill, Marshall, Lakewood and Millikan schools will be affected.
The cuts in busing amount to about a third of the school district’s transportation. Parents affected by the transportation cuts will be notified in the coming days.
The school board considered about \$7.4 million in additional cuts to central offices but asked for more detail before they act.
With the latest cuts, LBUSD has reduced its budget by more than \$200 million since 2008.
Documentation on this week’s cuts is available under Budget Update at lbschools.net.

Limited Number of Summer Jobs Available

Applications are now being accepted for a limited number of summer school certificated positions 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.
Bargaining unit members who are elected to teach summer school are paid on salary schedule P. Hours taught during summer school will count for supplemental STRS credit.
Applications are available at all schools and business offices. Employees will also be able

to download application materials at **TeachLongBeach.com**, under “For Current Employees.”
Information regarding dates and times of summer school are listed on the application.
All applications, including those for LBSA and EPHS, must be submitted to the office of Human Resource Services, Attn: Summer School, by Friday, March 18.

The Coffee with Chris meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22 at Lakewood High School has been canceled.
Coffee with Chris provides employees an opportunity to chat with Superintendent Chris Steinhäuser.
The next Coffee with Chris meeting is 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31 at the Cabrillo High School Library.

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 |
| 1-2 | Conference Days (Elementary Schools) |
| 1 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “The American Parade: We The Women,” Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 2 | NEA’s Read Across America 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Helen Keller,” Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 3 | Adoption of U.S. National Anthem |
| 3 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree,” Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 4 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “One Fine Day” and “Take the Power,” Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 5 | Black American Day |
| 6-12 | Girl Scout Week |
| 7 | Conservation, Bird & Arbor Day |
| 8 | International Women’s Day |
| 8 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “The Struggle for Women’s Rights,” Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 9-April 23 | Lent |
| 9 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Benjamin Franklin,” Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 10 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “School Bus and the Exceptional Child,” Grades K-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 11 | Johnny Appleseed Day |
| 11 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Indian Artists of the Southwest,” Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 13 | Daylight Savings Time Day |
| 15 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Ask For It,” Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8 |
| 16 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 17 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 22 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 24 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 31 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Adventures in Poetry I,” Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8 |
| 17 | St. Patrick’s Day |
| 18 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “School Bus Safety,” Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 25 & 28 | LBUSD Furlough Days |
| 29 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Cesar Chavez,” Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 30 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Florence Nightingale,” Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 31 | Cesar Chavez Day |

No February Coffee

The Coffee with Chris meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22 at Lakewood High School has been canceled.
Coffee with Chris provides employees an opportunity to chat with Superintendent Chris Steinhäuser.
The next Coffee with Chris meeting is 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31 at the Cabrillo High School Library.

Names in the News

Violinist **Aishu Venkatarman** (Poly High School Class of 2010) is the subject of “The Young Icon,” a recently aired documentary by Entertainment Studios and KTLA Channel 5. While at Poly, the child prodigy began attending the highly competitive Berklee College of Music in Boston at the age of 14.

L.A. Unified Facing 7,300 Layoff Notices

The Los Angeles Unified School District OK’d a plan to send layoff notices to 7,300 teachers and other staff this week to help close a projected budget deficit, according to the Los Angeles Daily News.
The nation’s second largest school district faces a nearly \$400 million budget shortfall. Layoff notices will go to classroom teachers, social workers, nurses and counselors.
“This is the worst thing I’ve seen after 42 years in education,” Los Angeles school board member Richard Vladovic said.

• Israel, Japan Visit

(Continued from first page)
curriculum app for iPad.
The Israeli and Japanese visitors will arrive in Long Beach in the coming weeks.
The school district has seen an increase in national and international attention since it was named in December as one of the world’s 20 leading school systems by McKinsey & Company, a research firm that serves more than 70 percent of Fortune magazine’s most admired companies.
Aside from the latest international visitors, the school district also is attracting thousands of virtual visitors from throughout the world to the official LBUSD website at lbschools.net. About 1,000 visitors a week view the website from 123 countries and territories other than the United States.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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