



# school bulletin

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

April 29, 2011

## Youngest Kindergartners Can Take Prep Year

The Long Beach Unified School District will offer transitional kindergarten in September at eight or more schools, providing extra support to less mature kindergartners who don't reach age five until fall.

The free classes are a response to recent state legislation changing the entry date for kindergarten from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1 (over the course of four years) to make certain that kindergartners are at least five years old. As part of the legislation, once the age requirement completely changes, students whose fifth birthday is between September and December must take one year of transitional kindergarten followed by one year of standard kindergarten.

Across the state, the kindergarten entry date will change as follows:

- 2011-12: no change
- 2012-13: Nov. 1
- 2013-14: Oct. 1
- 2014-15: Sept. 1

As fewer and fewer students are eligible to

start kindergarten because of the change in age eligibility, transitional kindergarten will be implemented throughout California.

LBUSD, however, is among a statewide group of early implementers of transitional kindergarten and will offer 20-student transitional-K classes at Buffum, Carver, Cleveland, Cubberley, Dooley, Edison, Garfield and McKinley schools this fall.

"We're pleased to provide this important service for parents and students," said Jill Baker, LBUSD's assistant superintendent for elementary, middle and K-8 schools.

"Transitional kindergarten is a gift of time for many students, and it will help to prepare more children for success in kindergarten and beyond," Baker said.

As an early implementer, LBUSD is offering the program ahead of many other school districts where children will only be eligible for transitional kindergarten if their fifth birthday falls between:

- Nov. 2 and Dec. 2 (for 2012-13);
- Oct. 2 and Dec. 2 (for 2013-14);
- Sept. 2 and Dec. 2 (for 2014-15 and each school year thereafter).

LBUSD's transitional-K classes will be funded in part by a \$150,000 grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

California's children begin kindergarten at a younger age than kids in almost any other state, often before they have the maturity and the social, early literacy and pre-math skills needed to meet the challenges of kindergarten.

California is only one of four states that set a cutoff date as late as Dec. 1, yet the Golden State has some of the highest standards for what children are expected to learn. The children with the largest school readiness gaps, 4-year-olds from low-income households, are the least likely to have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten classes. Only 13 percent of disadvantaged children attend high-quality pre-K classes, according to research by the RAND Corporation.

Parents interested in the free transitional-K classes for their children this fall may complete a parent-interest form now available under Transitional Kindergarten in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). Call the Elementary Schools Office at 997-8247 for more information.



## 9 More Schools Make Statewide Honor Roll

Nine Schools in the Long Beach Unified School District made the statewide Honor Roll list recently announced by California Business for Education Excellence.

Schools receiving this distinction from California's business community have demonstrated consistently high academic achievement and have made significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all of their students.

The Honor Roll is made up of two different awards – the Star Schools Award (477 schools) and Scholar Schools Award (744 schools). Long Beach has four Star Schools and five Scholar Schools.

"These schools are the bright spots of excellence in efforts to raise student academic achievement and close persistent achievement gaps," said Kirk Clark, president of CBEE.

"By highlighting them, recognizing their achievement and giving them a voice we hope other schools can learn from these proven practices and we can begin to duplicate their success to scale throughout the state."

Star Schools are those with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency over four years and are outperforming expectations for every subgroup of students. This year's Star Schools in LBUSD include Burnett, Lafayette,

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## Middle School Sports Fundraising Begins

The middle school sports program is in jeopardy for next year due to the state's ongoing, multi-billion-dollar cuts to public education. The program needs \$190,000 in private funding to continue.

A community-wide fundraising effort has begun. Learn more, and donate online by visiting Save Middle School Sports in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Save the date for an open house Saturday, June 4 at the AES power plant on Studebaker Road, where AES will match donations to the sports program.

Watch the School Bulletin, School Loop and [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) for more details soon.



Lowell Friends of Technology

### FRUITFUL EFFORT —

This two-paneled canvas painted by Lowell Bayside Academy parent and artist Diana Infante measures 80 by 66 inches and contains the names of each family that donated enough money to buy a new Apple computer for the school. More than 40 families contributed over \$1,000 each. The canvas will adorn a refurbished computer lab once the lab opens. Lowell parents are on track to raise \$100,000. See a larger photo in color at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Millikan Girls' Golf Scores 3.91 GPA

The Millikan High School girls' golf team has won a second place Academic Team Award from the CIF Southern Section.

The team, which earned a combined grade point average of 3.91, will be honored during a May 9 ceremony at Angel Stadium prior to the game between the Anaheim Angels and the Chicago White Sox.



## Measure K Website

Stay informed about planning and construction of Measure K School Bond projects by visiting a new set of web pages found under Measure K Construction at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Among the new web features is an interactive map with information on new and upcoming projects. Major projects also are featured on the map drop-down menu. An archive of bond measure documents is available along with a "frequently asked questions" section.

Approved by 71 percent of local voters in 2008, Measure K makes available \$1.2 billion to build, renovate and improve schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. Top priority projects include the building of a new, small high school at the site of the former DeMille Middle School, and a new middle school in Signal Hill.

Other projects in the planning stages are a new swimming pool at Cabrillo High School, a gymnasium addition at Lindsey International Studies Magnet, rebuilding of Roosevelt Elementary School, design of a new high school at the Browning site (3230 Hill Street, Long Beach), rebuilding of Newcomb Academy, and a major renovation of Jordan High School.

Additional funds have been set aside to address districtwide projects, such as boiler replacements, removal of outdated portable classrooms, and technology upgrades.

Measure K funds are designated only for school repair and construction, and cannot be used for operations, including administrator and teacher salaries.

## Future Administrator Program Postponed

The Long Beach Unified School District's Future Administrators Program (formerly called the Aspiring Assistant Principals Program) has been postponed until fall 2011.

For more information, check the Leadership Development web page this fall. Find the page in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Teacher Transfers

Human Resource Services is now accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2011-12 school year. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Request for Transfer forms are available at schools and the TALB Office, and at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Human Resource Services, then "For Current Employees."

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply is May 1.

Call ext. 8635 for more information.

## Names in the News

Poly High School students **David Gaster**, **Kevin Melvin**, **Madison Kerst** and **Violet Ranson** were selected as sister-city representatives to visit Yokkaichi, Japan.

Hamilton Middle School students **Oscar Becerra**, **Zakee Hood**, **Jasonryan Libed**, and **Erick Vargas** competed in the Vex Robotics World Championships in Orlando, Fla. this month. The students discovered that they had been placed in the high school division rather than the middle school competition. The high school division included 416 teams from 15 different countries. The Hamilton students decided to proceed with competition against their older and more experienced opponents. Hamilton's middle schooler's ranked 60th among the high school teams. The team is led by Hamilton teacher **Ethan George**.

Hudson K-8 School and Poly High School Math Engineering Science Achievement teams recently took first place at the regional MESA Day wind energy design competition at Cal State Los Angeles and USC. Hudson team members are **Christine Le**, **Michelica Balajadia**, **Kyrene Agonon** and **Rose Chelsea Lubang**. Poly team members are **Breanna Nery**, **Rae Jillian Rivera** and **Kimberly Ventura**. **James Mills** advises both teams.

The California Association of School Psychologists has named LBUSD's **Shelley Cassidy** as Outstanding School Psychologist for Southern California.

She was recognized for outstanding service to schools where she provides help for students and parents on issues such as anger management, surviving divorce, and social skills. She earned praise for her work with the Greater Long Beach Association of School Psychologists, CASP, Loyola Marymount University and the Special Olympics.



**Cassidy**

## Public Schools Week

The theme for Public Schools Week, May 23-27, is "Together We Make a Profound Difference in Public Education."

Open house is scheduled for Monday, May 23 for elementary schools; Tuesday, May 24 for middle schools; and Wednesday, May 25 for high schools.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAEUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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## Dates to Remember

### May

	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
	Loyalty Day
1	Law Day
1-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
1-7	National Physical Education Week
2-8	National Children's Book Week
3	National Teacher Day
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 11 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 17 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
5	Cinco de Mayo
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
8	Mothers Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
11	California Day of the Teacher
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation, A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
16-20	Classified Employee Week
18	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	LBUSD Science Fair
21	Armed Forces Day
23-27	Public Schools Week
23	Open House — Elementary Schools
24	Open House — Middle Schools
25	Open House — High Schools
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 26 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
30	Memorial Day

## • CBEE Honor Roll

(Continued from first page)

Longfellow and Mann elementary schools.

Scholar Schools are those that show significant levels of academic achievement but do not have a significant socio-economically disadvantaged student population. This year's Scholar Schools in LBUSD include Fremont, Gant, Lowell and Naples elementary schools, along with Newcomb K-8 Academy.

The annual awards are supported by numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, Macy's, Edison International, Wells Fargo, Southern California Auto Club, the California Business Roundtable, and United Way of the Bay Area.

The Honor Roll uses individual school and student subgroup performance data based on the California Standards Tests to evaluate school academic performance over time.

"We must change the conversation in public education from being about failure and sanctions to one that focuses on schools and school systems that are getting the kinds of results that Honor Roll schools are achieving," said Greg Jones, CBEE Chairman. "These schools are overcoming challenges every day."

CBEE was founded in 1999 by major businesses to represent the business community in state education policy making.

## In Memoriam

**Howard Tait**  
teacher, Cabrillo  
April 19, 2011