



school bulletin

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

May 13, 2011

Lafayette Wins National Award for Gains

Lafayette Elementary School is one of six schools to earn the Panasonic National School Change Award for significant, multi-year gains in student achievement. The award is given through the National Principals Leadership Institute in New York, NY.

"We're thrilled to be honored for the hard work of our teachers, support staff, parents and students," said Lafayette Principal Damita Myers-Miller. "We've come a long way, especially given the challenges that we face. Being recognized on a national stage like this is a tremendous boost to our school community."

Lafayette's state Academic Performance Index has grown from the 500 range to well beyond the state's target of 800 in just a few years. The school's fifth grade math proficien-

cy surpasses the state average by 13 percentage points, despite significant poverty and language challenges.

Award criteria include evidence that the school has closed achievement gaps and shown "a sharp increase in student achievement across all groups of students as measured by documented outside evaluations." Winners also must demonstrate innovative teaching practices and overall improvement in the quality of teaching, along with an alignment of standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Other award criteria include "a perception in the school among all stakeholders (administrators, teachers, students and parents) that positive change has taken place.

One other California school earned the honor: the School of International Business at Kearny Complex in San Diego. The remaining three awards went to schools in South Carolina, Kansas and Georgia.

Each winning school receives \$5,000 in Panasonic products.

Learn more at npli.org.

Final Layoffs OK'd For 789 Employees

As a direct result of the state's failure to reach a budget compromise, the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved final layoff notices Tuesday for 789 employees, mostly teachers.

The job cuts, which represent about 10 percent of LBUSD's workforce, are part of an effort to cope with California's ongoing, multi-billion-dollar cuts in funding for public schools.

The final notices for certificated employees will be distributed by the end of this week.

A list of the employees affected by the layoffs is part of the publicly posted May 10 school board agenda available at lbschools.net.

During the past three years, LBUSD has cut more than \$200 million. During the same period, more than 30,000 California educators and 10,000 other public school employees have been laid off.

May 15 is the deadline when California school districts must provide any final layoff notices to certificated employees.



CAMS Robotics Team Earns National Prize

A team of 17 students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science won a top award at a recent robotics competition in St. Louis, Mo.

The students created a 120-pound robot designed to lift and place tubes shaped as triangles, circles and squares in the FIRST Robotics Championship, according to CAMS physics and digital electronics teacher Ted Harder.

FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology, was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, whose inventions include the Segway electric self-balancing human transporter.

The CAMS students won the Entrepreneurship Award. The award celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit and recognizes a team

that develops a business plan to achieve objectives. The winning team displays "entrepreneurial enthusiasm and vital business skills," Harder said.

In 2000, CAMS Robotics was started as a student club to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Since then CAMS Robotics has expanded to compete in VEX Robotics (vexrobotics.com) and Marine Advanced Technology (MATE) Remotely Operated Vehicle (marinetech.org).

CAMS, a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills, placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in the most recent U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools.

SAVE MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS —

Middle school sports remain in jeopardy for next year due to budget cuts, so private funds are being raised through the Long Beach Education Foundation to keep the program alive. The AES Alamitos Power Plant at 690 N. Studebaker Rd. in Long Beach will match donations to the sports program during the plant's 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. "Power of You" festival and open house Saturday, June 4. Learn more by visiting "Save Middle School Sports" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Photo by Jim Cayer.

Shanghai Educators to Visit Hudson School

Educators from Shanghai — whose students impressed the world in December by outperforming their counterparts internationally in reading, math and science — will visit Hudson K-8 School in West Long Beach next week to explore a partnership with the school.

Arriving at Hudson will be representatives of the Shanghai U-Learn Education Group, which serves as the human resources and curriculum provider for Shanghai World Foreign Language Primary School, one of the most reputable private schools in China. Like Hudson, the Shanghai school offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program.

Hudson gained authorization in 2008 to offer the IB Primary Years Program, bringing

the rigorous, internationally recognized college preparatory system to the Westside school.

Along with providing rigorous academics, IB helps students to understand and appreciate people from other countries and cultures. At Hudson, the program includes Spanish classes for all students.

Like Advanced Placement courses, IB high school courses are rigorous college preparatory classes. IB high school courses are honored at the best universities throughout the world as indicative of outstanding academic training.

Long Beach first began offering IB in 1992 at Jordan High School, where students can earn the International Diploma, a designation that is

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Names in the News

Millikan High School students earned high honors at the recent Cal State Long Beach Theatrefest. The competition included more than 1,000 students from 30 schools throughout California. Earning first place for Improv Team were **Zack Brackemyer, Michael Colleary, Ruary Fay, Simon Johnson, Alex Shewchuk and Liz Waite.** **Megan Lovegren** won second place for Graphic Design, while **Sarah Goldstein and Courtney Lucca** won third place for Comedic Scenes, and **Samantha Reynolds** won third place for Costume Design.

Teachers **Donna Dean** of Monroe K-8 School, **Erin Drake** of Hoover Middle School and **Carolyn Green** of Tincher Preparatory Academy were among five teachers selected by the School Cents Program at the Lakewood Mall to be featured on their Facebook page as part of their Teacher Appreciation Week. Students turned in essays on why a special teacher in their lives deserved this recognition.

Pamela Lovett, elementary differentiation coach for the Long Beach Unified School District's Gifted and Talented Education program, earned the Distinguished Service Award for the Los Angeles County region from the California Association for the Gifted. She was recognized for her work with teachers to differentiate, or customize, instruction for students of diverse backgrounds.

North Long Beach Town Hall Meeting

Public input is being sought on draft policy recommendations for improving social, economic and academic opportunities in North Long Beach. A town hall meeting is set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17 at the Jordan High School Auditorium, 6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach.

The draft recommendations were developed with results of a community-wide survey completed by 1,000 respondents and from conversations with dozens of community members in focus groups conducted in the last two months.

Comments from the upcoming town hall will be incorporated in the final recommendations, to be presented to the Long Beach Unified School District's Board of Education in June.

Learn more at lbschools.net under North Long Beach Initiative.

The Job Board

Poly has an opening for a PACE 9th Grade U.S. government/economics teacher.

Applicants must be current teachers in LBUSD who are not on the layoff list. To apply or learn more, contact Michelle Aberle at ext. 5128 by Friday, May 27.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
May Aoyagi	June 2	Karen Harmon kharmon@lbschools.net
Tim Spivey	June 2	Cindy Spivey caspivey@charter.net
Shelly Levinson Susan Yee	June 11	Lara Kurutz lkurutz@lbschools.net

Inspirational Kids to Hear Berkeley Coach

One of the top coaches in basketball, U.C. Berkeley's Mike Montgomery, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Most Inspiring Students Awards at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at the Long Beach Hilton.

The evening of inspiring stories about local students who have beaten the odds is sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation. One student from each school in the Long Beach Unified School District is recognized at the event.

Montgomery, a Millikan High School and Cal State Long Beach alum, was named head coach at Berkeley three years ago. Last season, he led the team to its first conference championship in 50 years and helped the Bears reach the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season, advancing to the second round.

Montgomery previously coached at Stanford University and was head coach of the NBA's Golden State Warriors.

Masters of ceremony at the event will be Frank Mottek, news anchor for KNX 1070 Radio; and Mike Murray, president of the Foundation.

The event's theme is Mardi Gras, featuring the Cabrillo High School Steel Drum Band and Renaissance High School Dancers and Singers.

During the dinner, the Superintendent's Annual Distinguished Community Service Award also is given to an individual or organization that has made a positive difference for local schools and students. This year's honor goes to The Port of Long Beach.

Proceeds of the event support Long Beach Education Foundation charities.

Reservations are available by calling the Foundation at 997-8693. The donation is \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table sponsorship. Please make checks payable to: Long Beach Education Foundation.

CaPERS Workshop

Two retirement planning workshop sessions presented by CaPERS have been scheduled for classified employees on Thursday, May 19. Sessions are 9 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave.

Representatives from Payroll and Risk Management will be at the workshops to answer questions. To register, send an email to classifiedstaffdevelopment@lbschools.net or call 435-5708.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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• Shanghai

(Continued from first page)

recognized by the world's leading universities.

Students from Shanghai recently outscored all others internationally on the Program for International Student Assessment, known as PISA.

The Shanghai school is the first IB Primary Years School in China. Visitors to Hudson will include about a dozen of the Shanghai school's leaders, including its CEO, board members, school principal and other top administrators.

Partnerships between Shanghai and Hudson may include teacher and student exchanges.

The International Baccalaureate Organization was established in the 1960s to provide curriculum for children of ambassadors worldwide so they might receive uniform, high-quality preparation for college.

Learn more about the IB organization at ibo.org.

Six Finalists Up for Employee of Year

Twenty-nine nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award have been narrowed down to six finalists. The top winner is scheduled to be announced during the noon to 3 p.m. Ice Cream Social held in honor of Classified Employee Week on Friday, May 20 at the Teacher Resource Center. The awards ceremony starts at 1 p.m. when all finalists and nominees will be honored.

Finalists also will be honored at the May 17 school board meeting, and the winner of the top award will be recognized at the June 7 board meeting.

This year's finalists are Dianna Bisnar, intermediate office assistant at Garfield; John Bosley, campus security officer at Lindsey; Donelle Castro, instructional aide – deaf/hard of hearing at Marshall; Sam Hill, plant supervisor II at Cubberley; Dewayne Hundley, custodian at Lakewood; and Steve Phelps, custodian at Bryant.

Nomination papers were submitted by colleagues and reviewed by a committee of classified employees.

No school district funds are used for the Ice Cream Social, which is made possible by donations.

Movie Screening of 'Race to Nowhere'

Stanford Middle School will offer a screening of the documentary "Race to Nowhere" on Thursday evening, May 19 in the school auditorium. The film examines the stresses of daily life, including the pressure to perform, that children face today.

The 6 to 7:30 p.m. screening will be followed by a panel discussion including Bruce Vancil, assistant director of transfer and reentry services for CSULB; Wendy Hayes-Ebright, LBUSD GATE/Accelerated coordinator; parent coach Carolyn Gatzke, and Poly PACE coordinator and teacher Michelle Aberle.

Food and beverages will be available for sale from 5 to 6 p.m. at the school, located at 5871 Los Arcos, Long Beach.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Buy tickets at racetonowhere.com.