



school bulletin

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

October 21, 2011

A Helping Hand for Out-of-Work Teachers

For a teacher who is new to the profession, a layoff caused by the state budget crisis can bring a career to a halt. Teachers with the least seniority are the first to be laid off, often as they are still progressing from a preliminary credential to the coveted professional clear credential. Without a job, they cannot complete the classroom field work needed to earn the clear credential. But a new Alternative Induction Pathway initiated by the Long Beach Unified School District and the California State University Chancellor's Office is trying to change that.

With the help of \$850,000 committed over the next two years by private foundations (and possibly more private funds on the way), nearly 100 out-of-work teachers this fall are continuing their professional development, including field work in LBUSD classrooms. The result is that these teachers are working toward their clear credential without having to pay the

\$4,000 or so per teacher it would otherwise cost.

"Many of the participating teachers, who were discouraged and unsure where to turn after being laid off, have expressed deep appreciation for this opportunity to remain engaged in the profession," said Lori Grace, program coordinator for LBUSD's Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) program. "We hope that when our schools eventually hire more teachers, these participants will remember Long Beach, and in turn Long Beach will gain many highly trained professionals."

Participants include teachers who were recently laid off, day-to-day substitutes and others who have just graduated from the College of Education at Cal State Long Beach but haven't found a job.

Funding for the Alternative Induction
(Continued on next page)



LINKED LEARNING — Millikan High School COMPASS academy student Ruby Reyes performs a monologue as a "face of poverty." In the classroom are some of the 250 visitors from throughout the state who spent a recent morning seeing Long Beach's pioneering "Linked Learning" high school improvement efforts in action. **Story on next page.**

Thousands of Musical Instruments Needed

The Long Beach Unified School District remains committed to providing high quality music programs. Developments in the law prohibiting public schools from charging students most educational fees, however, are changing the way instrumental music instruction is offered statewide, including here.

The prohibition against charging students for participation in certain educational activities will affect a number of areas of education. For instrumental music, that means LBUSD is planning to provide a musical instrument for any child who wants to participate in the program, free of charge. Parents cannot be required to rent or buy their child's instrument.

Billions of dollars in statewide cuts to public schools have made the situation all the more challenging.

For now, the most noticeable changes to music programs this year are affecting the elementary grades. While elementary parents can still be encouraged to voluntarily buy or rent an instrument for their child, there is a need for thousands of musical instruments at local schools. Monetary donations toward the cause are being accepted by the nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation at lbschools.net/give. Select the "Musical Instruments" designation in the drop-down menu to make a secure, tax deductible donation.

Do you have a dusty, lonely instrument that needs a child? Both new and good quality, functioning used instruments are being accepted. Call 997-8175 to donate instruments, or bring instruments to a collection day scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Teacher Resource Center, Room C, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

As the school district gathers additional instruments, elementary parents are noticing a few changes to music programs. Elementary students who are interested in instrumental music are being selected for the programs this month on a lottery basis. Once those students are selected, schools determine how many of those students choose to provide their own instruments. Remaining instruments at each school will be offered to students on a waiting list.

Most of the interested LBUSD students are being accommodated through the lottery approach, but only because elementary students this year are sharing sets of instruments and cannot take them home to practice. Parents are
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Wilson, Poly Earn Top Writing Awards

Four Wilson Classical High School students and two Poly High School students are among 520 high school seniors to earn 2011 Achievement Awards in Writing from the National Council of Teachers of English.

The recipients were chosen from students nominated in their junior year by teachers from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Canada and American schools abroad.

The awards program was established in 1957 to recognize some of the best student writers in the nation.

The winning Wilson students are Amanda Israel, Kai King-Blow, Katharine Blackburn and Lauren Kallenberg.

The winners from Poly are Stacy Chou and Allie Kaylor.

Governor Signs Bill On College Promise

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed Senate Bill 650, the Long Beach College Promise Act, authored by State Sen. Alan Lowenthal. The legislation was sponsored by Long Beach City College and the Long Beach Unified School District to support the Long Beach College Promise, an effort to increase college success.

"We commend Gov. Brown for signing this important legislation," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "SB 650 will allow our schools to further implement the Long Beach College Promise, a nationally recognized collaboration with our community college and state university. Together we're preparing more students for success in higher education and in the workplace."

SB 650 establishes an innovative model that provides participating LBUSD students with an aligned sequence of rigorous high school coursework leading to capstone, or culminating, college courses while students are still in high school. These capstone courses count for course credit at LBCC. The bill also allows the LBCC Board of Trustees to give LBUSD students priority enrollment and course registration.

Visit longbeachcollegepromise.org to learn more about the College Promise.

High School 'Linked Learning' Gains Support

About 250 people from throughout the state convened in Long Beach recently as the Linked Learning Alliance spotlighted successful high school improvement efforts here. During the event, programs at Millikan High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science earned special recognition for earning certifications of excellence.

The Linked Learning Alliance is a statewide coalition of educators, policymakers, businesses, labor, parents and others dedicated to improving high schools and better preparing students for college, careers and life.

"Long Beach is a beacon of what can be accomplished," Christopher Cabaldon, executive director of the Linked Learning Alliance, told luncheon attendees who gathered at The Grand event center after spending the morning seeing high school programs in action. "Schools here have been recognized internationally not just for their excellence, but for keeping at it and continuing to improve."

Linked Learning is a high school improvement approach that combines strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a pathway centered on an industry theme, such as engineering, biomedicine and health, or arts and media.

Earning Linked Learning Certification were the COMPASS and PEACE academies at Millikan, along with CAMS. To achieve certification, a pathway or academy must meet rigorous

criteria developed by representatives from Linked Learning partner organizations, including the National Academy Foundation, the National Career Academy Coalition, the Career Academy Support Network, The Education Trust-West, ConnectEd and representatives of the California Linked Learning District Initiative, business and industry, and other districts interested in Linked Learning. There are 19 certified pathways in California. Last year, the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy at LBUSD's Jordan High School became the first of two programs statewide to earn the certification.

Click on the Linked Learning icon at lbschools.net to learn more.

LBUSD Health Fair

With open enrollment for health benefits scheduled for Nov. 1 to 30, employees may wish to attend the upcoming Long Beach Unified School District Health Fair. The fair runs from 12 to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28 in the Long Beach School For Adults Auditorium, 3701 E. Willow St. Attendees can find answers to health and wellness questions, and learn how to manage health plans.

An open enrollment packet is being mailed to each employee's home address.

National Certification

National Board Certification is the nation's only advanced teacher certification. Interested candidates should submit their applications to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards by Thursday, Dec. 1.

Learn more at nbpts.org, or call 1-800-22TEACH, or attend the district information meeting to be held 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 in Room C at the Teacher Resource Center. Contact Elisa Hagen at ext. 2900 or at ehagen@lbschools.net for more information.

CalPERS Retirement

Two CalPERS retirement planning workshops will be offered by the Personnel Commission on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Representatives from CalPERS, and LBUSD Payroll and Risk Management will answer questions at the sessions, which run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. Call 435-5708 to register.

• Teacher Induction

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Pathway comes from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation. Bechtel is focused on elementary and middle school, emphasizing science, technology, engineering and math. Irvine is focused on secondary single subject teaching, emphasizing the Linked Learning effort that combines college prep academics with real-world career experiences.

The idea for the Alternative Induction Pathway originated in a meeting between LBUSD and CSU officials, where school district leaders lamented the potential loss of a generation of enthusiastic new teachers who had already invested considerably in their education and on-the-job training.

Within a few weeks during the summer, CSU worked with LBUSD and private foundations to secure funding for this fall.

"We were so thankful that CSU understood the urgency," said LBUSD Deputy Superintendent Christine Dominguez, "and they trusted that Long Beach would implement a high quality program. That speaks volumes about the good reputation of our schools."

As part of Alternative Induction, participants are paired with a mentor teacher. This helps reduce student-to-teacher ratios at a time when class sizes have swelled due to budget cuts.

Participants teach in an induction mentor's class for 60 hours over three months, completing assessments and submitting portfolios. Participants also attend workshops and seminars provided by LBUSD, and they have access to online professional development and other support.

Alternative Induction holds promise as a statewide model as CSU and California school districts search for ways to retain highly qualified teachers in the profession.

Learn more at lbschools.net under Beginning Teacher Support in the A-Z index.

• Instruments

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advised not to buy or rent an instrument until their child is accepted via the lottery process.

In addition to the lottery approach, LBUSD has suspended third grade strings along with beginning woodwinds and brass in fourth and fifth grades this year. Remaining programs at the elementary level include beginning and advanced violin in fourth and fifth grades, and advanced winds in fifth grade. The school district aims to restore the suspended programs when it has enough musical instruments.

Nearly 1,000 violins are needed for fourth and fifth graders at a cost of about \$265,000, said James Petri, LBUSD music curriculum leader. Petri estimates that about 275 trumpets are needed in fourth and fifth grades at a cost of about \$126,000.

The school district also needs cellos, flutes, clarinets, saxophones and trombones.

Music programs at several LBUSD schools have earned national honors for their excellence, including GRAMMY Signature School awards. Students here routinely perform with some of the world's top musicians at national and international festivals.

"We intend to maintain our long tradition of musical excellence," Petri said. "But the need for instruments is great. Our schools and students need help."

Dates to Remember

November

- 1 American Indian Heritage Month
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
- 2 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
- 3 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
- 4 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
- 6 Standard Time Day
- 8 Election Day
- 8 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Pilgrims At Plymouth," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
- 9 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "William Bradford, The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
- 11 Veterans Day — Holiday
- 13-19 American Education Week
- 15 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
- 16 Education Support Professionals Day
- 16 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
- 17 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
- 18 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
- 24-25 Thanksgiving
- 29 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
- 30 Mark Twain's Birthday

In Memoriam

Allen Thomas

former student store operator, Lakewood
Sept. 20, 2011

James Kane

former electronics technician
Sept. 30, 2011

Robert Rives

teacher, Millikan
Oct. 16, 2011

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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