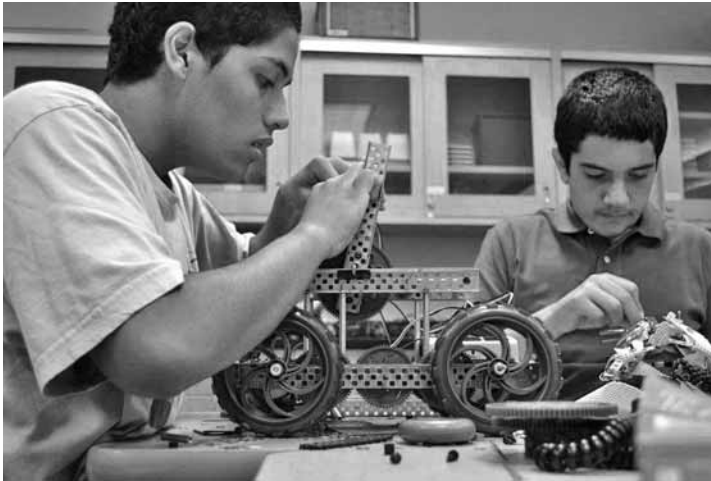




# school bulletin

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

December 2, 2011



**MODEL SCHOOL** — California Academy of Mathematics and Science students Ryan Siaumau and Jacob Hernandez work on a robotics project. CAMS was named one of 16 national model schools for its engineering program that uses industry-leading technology.

## CAMS Earns Award As National Model

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science is among only 16 schools nationwide to earn a 2010-11 Model Schools Award. The award was announced by nonprofit Project Lead The Way (PLTW), a top provider of science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum.

The winners were selected from 4,200 eligible schools.

CAMS is home to a PLTW Pathways To Engineering program that opens students' eyes to fields in engineering, design, manufacturing, electronics and more. Students learn and apply the design process, using the same industry-leading 3-D design software used by companies like Intel, Lockheed Martin and Pixar. They explore aerodynamics, astronautics and space life sciences. They design, test and construct circuits and devices such as smart phones and tablets.

The model schools were selected based on the high quality of their programs, excellent relationships with businesses, colleges and universities, outstanding communications and outreach, solid professional development and a high level of student engagement. A national panel evaluated each school.

"The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, with a highly diverse student

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## Tincher Again a Statewide 'School to Watch'

Tincher Preparatory School's significant gains in student achievement have earned the K-8 campus its second "School to Watch" honor given by the California Middle Grades Alliance.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced that Tincher was among 11 redesignated and four newly named high-performing California schools deemed model middle schools in the Schools to Watch – Taking Center Stage program.

"I commend the students, their parents, teachers and administrators for their efforts in helping make these 15 schools models of excellence," Torlakson said. "Their success is amazing, especially considering they are swimming against the tide of massive budget cuts, crowded classrooms and employee layoffs."

The award recognizes high-performing

school models that demonstrate academic excellence, responsiveness to the needs and interests of adolescents, social equity and organizational support. Model schools host visitors from California and around the world who are looking for replicable practices that improve student achievement.

To be named a model middle school, school administrators must conduct a self-study evaluation and complete an extensive narrative application. Each site is then reviewed by a team of middle grades experts. To retain the designation, each school is re-evaluated every three years.

The winning schools will be formally recognized at the California Middle Grades Alliance annual luncheon on Feb. 23 during the California League of Middle Schools conference in Sacramento.

## California School Library Group Honors Hill

The California School Library Association recently honored history teacher John McVay, English teacher Sharon Barker and teacher librarian Kathy Alexander with the Good Ideas! award for their collaborative research project on American Social Reform Movements for eighth graders at Hill Classical Middle School. The award is given for effective use of technology and print media in the learning process.

The collaborative project by McVay, Barker and Alexander guided students through the research process using an educational wiki as the repository for resource materials. A wiki is a website that allows creation and collaborative editing of interlinked web pages by multiple people.

The students first completed a graphic organizer, demonstrating their understanding of the topic after working in the library doing research with their English teacher and the

teacher librarian. The organizer included development of a thesis statement, analysis to demonstrate rigor, an evaluation to demonstrate critical thinking, and personal reflection to touch upon relevance.

Students then chose a presentation tool (poster, PowerPoint, iMovie, Animoto, pamphlet, etc.) with the guidance of their English teacher as the first phase of their project to demonstrate learning. As the final phase of the project, students continued exploration of their topic in the history class, gaining more in-depth knowledge of their social movement and how it fit into the historical context. The project culminated with a research paper that included a thesis statement, supporting arguments, end-notes and a formal bibliography.

To see the wiki and learn more about the project, go to <http://hcms-8th-grade-history.wikispaces.com>.

## GEARUP Math Effort Shows Great Promise

A pilot project designed to give high schoolers a second chance at mastering mathematics is getting promising results.

Using a federal GEARUP grant aimed at improving college readiness, the Long Beach Unified School District this year is providing after-school math tutorials for algebra, geometry and intermediate algebra students who've received D or F grades on chapter exams.

After the tutorials, students retake failed tests to get back on track. More than 700 students have retaken such tests, with more than a third of them scoring 70 percent (a C grade) or better. At one school, Cabrillo High School, more than half of the participating students made such improvements.

"It gives kids an opportunity to dig themselves out of a hole," said LBUSD Mathematics Curriculum Leader Rebecca Afghani. "If students fail the first chapter test, then they will need extra help to get past chapter two."

Teachers have worked with central office staff to develop special materials for the tutorial project known as the GEARUP Math Intervention Pilot Program.

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## • GEARUP Effort

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One aim of the project is to create assessments and other tools for teachers to use long after the grant expires. The effort is modeled after last year's similar program at Wilson Classical High School.

"Some students were failing Algebra I by Christmas," Afghani said regarding Wilson's efforts, "so teachers thought, why wait until December to help these students?"

The GEARUP math program includes teacher-led committees that help ensure consistency and high standards throughout the school district.

High school math courses like Algebra I can be gate-keeper classes that impede students' ability to gain admission to colleges and universities.

The pilot project is an integral part of LBUSD's efforts to prepare more students for success in college and careers.

## Toy Drive Begins

The Long Beach Unified School District is collecting toys again this year for children who will be hospitalized at Miller Children's Hospital throughout December and into the new year.

Between 70 and 90 children are expected to be hospitalized during the holiday season. Patients range in age from birth to 16 years. Typically there is a shortage of toys for children ages five to 16.

As a member of the Board of Trustees for Miller Children's Hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer is collecting toys now through Wednesday, Dec. 21. Employees may bring new, unwrapped toys to designated drop-off points in the superintendent or deputy superintendent's office at 1515 Hughes Way.

## Dates to Remember

December	
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food for Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
21-28	Hanukkah
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 22 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry: Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
22	First Day of Winter
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
25	Christmas Day
25	Clara Barton's Birthday
26-27	Christmas Holiday — Observed
26-Jan. 6	Winter Recess
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa

## Wounded Warriors Honored by Schools

Cabrillo, Millikan and Poly high schools thanked and recognized several military veterans recently by making them honorary captains at football games. After being honored during the starting coin tosses, the veterans received special field passes and enjoyed the games from the sidelines.

As part of the recognition effort, students, staff and parents at the schools, along with staff from the central office at the Long Beach Unified School District, donated hundreds of dollars for the Wounded Warrior Project, which provides services to severely injured service members during the time between active duty and transition to civilian life.

The recognition effort was initiated by Dan Schlesinger, work based learning coordinator in LBUSD's High School Office. He began helping the Wounded Warrior Project after one of his former students, Cabrillo alum Ernesto R. Guerra, was killed at age 19 during his tour of duty in Iraq.

Assisting with the local recognition and fundraising effort were high school activities specialists Dow Lawson, Bari Stevens-Chapman and Terry Speir along with Cabrillo JROTC leader 1st Sgt. Tim Robertson and the JROTC cadets of Poly and Cabrillo.

## Job Share Deadline

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2012-13 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

Jan. 13 — Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

• March 1 — Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Please submit the above items to Human Resource Services, or for additional information, call ext. 8106.

## Head Start Relocates

The Head Start Administrative Office has moved from its Orange Avenue location to the former Burroughs site at 1260 E. 33rd St., Signal Hill.

Until further notice, temporary phone numbers are 426-8144, 426-8145 and 426-9104.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## • CAMS Award

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population and a 95 percent college entrance rate, is a comprehensive high school integrating the PLTW Engineering curriculum throughout their rigorous and innovative college-preparatory curriculum," said Judy D'Amico, PLTW western regional director. "The visionary leadership of the administration, along with the staff's creative and powerful teaching, actively engages and supports students committed to becoming thoughtful and productive members of our global and technological world."

"We are excited to recognize these schools for their exemplary work with students on a daily basis," said PLTW President and CEO Vince Bertram. "Teachers in these classes are inspiring students and unlocking their potential for success and achievement. This work does not happen in isolation. The community, business, and industry partnerships that make this work possible should be commended as well."

PLTW's curriculum has been designed by teachers, university educators, engineering and biomedical professionals, and school administrators to promote critical thinking, creativity, innovation and real-world problem solving skills in students. For more information, visit [www.pltw.org](http://www.pltw.org).

CAMS is a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills. The school placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in a recent U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools. Last month, CAMS accepted its second National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education. Learn more at [lbschools.net/cams](http://lbschools.net/cams).

## State's Voters Back Tax Hike for Schools

A strong majority of California voters is willing to pay higher taxes to boost funding for public schools despite tough times, according to a recent poll.

After years of budget reductions that have affected schools statewide with thousands of teacher layoffs and other deep cuts, 64 percent of those surveyed said they would pay more for schools.

The consensus was broad, crossing both genders and all races, ages, regions, income and educational levels, according to a USC Dornsife/Times poll detailed on the front page of the Nov. 20 Los Angeles Times.

## Names in the News

Students from Bancroft Middle School placed second in the annual JPL Invention Challenge preliminaries held recently at Orange Coast College. This year's challenge was to design and build a machine to kick a football into a trash can at a specified distance, introducing students to engineering practices and methods of design using their science and math skills. The Bancroft team competed with 26 other teams, most of them high schools. Bancroft students **Truan Barkis**, **Brianna Denger**, **Jorgen Denger** and **Makayla Parks** will compete in the finals Friday, Dec. 9 at the JPL facility in Pasadena.