



school bulletin

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

June 1, 2012

7 Schools Make *Washington Post* Ranking

A list of the nation's most challenging high schools released by the *Washington Post* includes seven schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

The 2012 rankings include schools that surpass 91 percent of other high schools nationwide in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep courses.

The *Post* divides the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2011 by the number of graduating seniors. Only 9 percent of high schools, or about 1,900 schools nationwide, qualified for the list.

The report by the *Post* includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a

figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local schools' rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 849 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (49.4% subs. lunch)
- 1,097 – Wilson (55.9% subs. lunch)
- 1,212 – Avalon (69.8% subs. lunch)
- 1,301 – Renaissance (65.7% subs. lunch)
- 1,339 – Poly (63.7% subs. lunch)
- 1,366 – Millikan (60.6% subs. lunch)
- 1,634 – Lakewood (52.5% subs. lunch)

Each of these schools also appeared on the *Washington Post* rankings last year.

Learn more at washingtonpost.com.

CAMS Earns Spot On *Newsweek* List

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science has earned a spot on *Newsweek's* list of America's top 1,000 high schools.

CAMS ranked 310 on this year's list based upon criteria that *Newsweek* revamped to include graduation rates, college entrance, Advanced Placement tests taken, average SAT scores, average AP scores, and AP courses offered. The list was shorter and even more selective than *Newsweek* lists of years past.

"This year, our ranking highlights the best 1,000 public high schools in the nation – the ones that have proven to be the most effective in turning out college-ready grads," states the *Newsweek* article on the magazine's partner website, thedailybeast.com.

CAMS is a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Gail Rainwater is Classified Employee of Year

Human Resource Services Executive Secretary Gail Rainwater has earned the Classified Employee of the Year Award for the Long Beach Unified School District. The award was announced recently at a ceremony in honor of Classified Employee Week.

Rainwater, a 27-year employee with the school district, worked as a clerk typist for Student Placement Services, then as school secretary at Reid and Robinson schools, and as secretary at the Personnel Commission before joining the Human Resources staff.



Rainwater

"I feel very honored to have received this award," Rainwater said. "I've had the privilege to work with many wonderful, dedicated and deserving classified employees over the years, and I am very proud to be a part of the LBUSD classified staff."

Rainwater was nominated by colleague Paula Wiesenhutter.

"Gail never complains, is seemingly tireless and manages to set the bar higher every day," Wiesenhutter wrote on the nomination form. "She has an uncanny way of making you feel special, important and valuable. She sets her own workload, cares and concerns aside to help others and still manages to meet all her deadlines, go the extra mile for her managers, co-workers, principals, school secretaries, and district employees wherever and whenever she

(Continued on next page)

More Than 5,600 to Graduate This Month

Receiving diplomas this month are 5,667 students in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Poly and Poly Academy of Achievers and Leaders have 1,100 seniors. Wilson will award 950 diplomas; Lakewood, 945; Millikan, 833; Jordan, 660; Cabrillo, 577; CAMS, 151; Reid, 123; EPHS, 107; Renaissance, 106; School for Adults/Beach High School, 62; and Avalon, 53.

CAMS conducts ceremonies on Friday, June 8.; Cabrillo on Tuesday, June 12; Jordan, Poly/PAAL and Reid on Wednesday, June 13; Avalon, Lakewood, Millikan, Renaissance and Wilson on Thursday, June 14; and EPHS and School for Adults/Beach on Friday, June 15.

Scheduled to present diplomas are:

Avalon—Assistant Superintendent Maggie Webster, 4 p.m., Avalon Casino Theater; **Cabrillo**—Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 6 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **CAMS**—Board of

Education President Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Millikan High School Auditorium; **EPHS**—Assistant Superintendent Maggie Webster, 1 p.m., Lakewood High School Auditorium; **Jordan**—Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Lakewood**—Board of Education Member Diana Craighead, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **School for Adults/Beach**—Board of Education Member John McGinnis, 1 p.m., Millikan High School Auditorium; **Millikan**—Board of Education Member Diana Craighead, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**—Board of Education President Felton Williams, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Reid**—Board of Education Member John McGinnis, noon, Cabrillo High School Small Gymnasium; **Renaissance**—Board of Education Member John McGinnis, 3 p.m., Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus Auditorium; **Wilson**—Board of Education Member Jon Meyer, 5:30 p.m., Stephens Field.



THE THRILL OF VICTORY—Poly High School economics students Eric Gorzeman and Braxton Greco exult upon learning that Gorzeman won this spring's national InvestWrite essay contest in which students demonstrate their mastery of the stock market. Greco took first place in the same contest last fall. The students were honored at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. **Story on next page.**

Nurse of the Year

Rose Van Meeveren, a nurse at Cleveland, Monroe and Henry schools, has won the 2012 School Nurse of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Nurses Association.

Van Meeveren accepted the honor at the association's recent annual recognition event.

The 12-year employee of the Long Beach Unified School District was honored for her compassion, kindness, calm demeanor and caring attitude toward staff members and peers.

A nationally certified school nurse, Van Meeveren has served on the LBSNA Board for several years and was just installed as their president-elect.



Van Meeveren

Names in the News

Longtime community volunteer **Pam Spoo**, a former PTA President at Gant, Hill and Poly schools, received the Helen Newcomb Award from the Junior League of Long Beach recently. The award is the service club's highest honor.

Hoover Middle School science teacher **Sonia McMichael** won the Math, Engineering Science Achievement Southern California (Cal State Long Beach Center) Middle School Advisor of The Year Award.

More School Districts In Financial Trouble

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson warned last week that 2.6 million California children now attend schools in districts that are in financial jeopardy – the highest number of financially troubled districts in state history.

"This is the kind of record no one wants to set. Across California, parents, teachers and administrators are increasingly wondering how to keep their schools' lights on, their bills paid and their doors open," Torlakson said. "The deep cuts this budget crisis has forced – and the uncertainties about what lies ahead – are taking an unprecedented and unacceptable toll on our schools."

Twice a year, the California Department of Education receives notices of interim certifications on the financial status of the state's 1,037 educational agencies. The certifications are classified as positive, qualified or negative.

A positive certification is assigned when an agency expects to meet its financial obligations. The Long Beach Unified School District has continued to earn such a designation through unprecedented budget cuts. However, Long Beach's positive certification also assumes that Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed November tax initiative passes.

A qualified certification is assigned when an agency may not meet its financial obligations for the current or two subsequent fiscal years. A negative certification – the most serious of the classifications – is assigned when an agency will be unable to meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the current

Poly Econ Student Takes National Title

Poly High School microeconomics student Eric Gorzeman surpassed 9,000 students to win the national InvestWrite essay competition recently. The victory at the spring competition followed Poly classmate Braxton Greco's national win at last fall's contest.

The competition is sponsored by the Foundation for Investor Education, a program of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) Foundation.

Award criteria include whether the student exhibits knowledge regarding the concept of researching and planning an investment strategy. Students must demonstrate an understanding of the core concepts of the stock market.

Each semester more than 9,000 students participate in the national essay competition as an extension of the Stock Market Game, produced by the SIFMA Foundation and supported by Morgan Stanley.

Poly juniors Gorzeman and Greco entered the fall and spring competitions as members of Dan Adler's Advanced Placement microeconomics class. Gorzeman also placed fourth nationally in the fall before winning first place this spring.

"All the judging was blind, and the essays went through a number of readers throughout the country," Poly Co-Principal Joe Carlson said. "The SIFMA personnel were startled, having two national placers from the same school in the fall. They were completely shocked by the spring results."

As national winners, both students and their teacher will travel to New York City to tour a variety of financial institutions and interact with business leaders.

year or for the subsequent fiscal year.

A record-high 188 educational agencies are either in negative or qualified financial status. That's up 61 from the First Interim Status Report for 2011-12 issued in February, and up 45 from the Second Interim Report for 2010-11 issued a year ago.

The new report shows 12 agencies received negative certifications and 176 received qualified certifications. Students in these 188 agencies represent more than 2.6 million of California's 6.2 million students attending schools in districts with serious financial challenges, up from nearly two million students in February.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President
JON MEYER, Vice President
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member
MARY STANTON, Member

Librarian of the Year

The Long Beach School Library Association presented the Teacher Librarian of the Year award to Jane Brooks at a recent Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education meeting.

Brooks serves as teacher librarian at Cabrillo High School.

The award is given each year to an outstanding teacher librarian.

Winners from recent years are Pamela Oehlman, Helen Cox, Crystal Miranda and Kathy Alexander.



Brooks

• Employee of Year

(Continued from first page)
can and in so doing makes this district a better place because she cares."

In 1994 Rainwater undertook the job as secretary at the new Jackie Robinson Academy. With the school still under construction, she worked tirelessly to make the opening day a complete success. When President Bill Clinton visited the school (with the Secret Service making many demands), Gail again met the challenge with a smile on her face.

Rainwater is praised by colleagues for her invaluable behind-the-scenes (and beyond the work day) contributions to classified employee barbecues and annual secret Santa drives for needy children

Twenty-nine nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award were narrowed down to three finalists this year. In addition to Rainwater, this year's finalists were John Bosley, campus security officer at Lindsey; and Jason Church, plant supervisor at Wilson.

Layoff Workshops

Employee Relations Services will hold workshops from 8:30 to noon on both June 20 and Aug. 1 at the Cabrillo High School Library for certificated (represented and non-represented) employees impacted by layoffs.

Topics at the Transitions Workshops include employment training opportunities, unemployment benefits, health benefit options and CalSTRS/CalPERS information.

Online registration begins June 4. Seating is limited, so early registration is recommended. To learn more, click on Employee Relations Services in the A-Z index at lbschools.net starting Monday, June 4.

In Memoriam

Joseph Tucciarone
former teacher
May 10, 2012

Sam Dimas
former teacher and coach
May 23, 2012