



school bulletin

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

March 23, 2012



WISE INVESTORS—Poly High School students Braxton Greco and Eric Gorzeman earned high honors in a national writing competition about the stock market. Joining them, center, is their microeconomics teacher, Dan Adler.

Poly Econ Students Win National Awards

Poly High School microeconomics students Braxton Greco and Eric Gorzeman earned honors recently for their essays in the national InvestWrite competition. Among the nation's high school students, Greco was the national winner, and Gorzeman placed fourth overall.

The students and their Advanced Placement microeconomics teacher, Dan Adler, were honored in front of Poly's student body during a surprise lunchtime ceremony at the school.

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.

18 Schools Honored For Academic Gains

Eighteen schools have earned Outstanding Growth honors for academic improvement from the Long Beach Unified School District's Office of Elementary, Middle and K-8 Schools.

The winning schools have significantly increased their state Academic Performance Index and have demonstrated exceptional growth on national Adequate Yearly Progress measurements in English and math.

Schools earning this year's Outstanding Growth Award are Burbank, Butler, Emerson, Franklin, Gompers, Hamilton, Holmes, Hoover, International, Jefferson, Kettering, Lindsey, Marshall, McKinley, Riley, Roosevelt, Tincer and Webster.

College Promise Effort Threatened by Cuts

A progress report on a four-year-old, local initiative to prepare more youngsters for college success reveals encouraging results, though education leaders cautioned that California's budget cuts threaten to curtail and reverse these gains.

Four years ago, leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach signed The Long Beach College Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to complete their higher education.

"Against difficult odds, including hundreds of millions of dollars in state funding cuts to our three institutions, we see encouraging signs of success," states the report signed by LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBCC Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley and CSULB President F. King Alexander. "More high school graduates here are enrolling in college, and more of those stu-

dents are prepared for rigorous college-level classes. As we have stated with increasing urgency in prior reports like these, however, California must find a way to stabilize its volatile funding for K-12 and higher education. Without such a basic commitment of resources from our state, the College Promise is in greater peril than ever. In fact, state cuts already are impacting students in significant ways, and yet further cuts to education loom."

The progress report highlights key steps that the three institutions are taking to prepare more students for success in college and in high-demand, high-paying jobs. Included in these efforts is a commitment to cover the cost of first-semester fees for every local high school graduate who enrolls directly at LBCC after graduation. The LBCC Foundation has raised more than \$6.5 million and established an endowment to pay the enrollment fees in perpetuity. Thousands of students already have

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Rotary Club Donates Thousands of Books

With this year's donation of more than \$32,000 in books, the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation will have provided about 200,000 books to local students and school libraries since 1999.

Rotary has collected contributions to this cause at its meetings, gathering more than \$300,000 in donations and matching funds for the literacy effort over the years.

Local preschoolers recently thanked Long Beach Rotary for its donations, including more than \$7,500 in books for the Long Beach Unified School District's Child Development Centers. One by one, preschoolers at the West CDC selected a new book to keep, wrote their name in it, and then read to a Rotary member.

This year's donated books also are going to children at the school district's popular Kindergarten Festivals. The next festival is 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 31 at Mann Elementary School. See lbschools.net for details.

The donated books also will be used to stock several elementary school libraries and classroom libraries such as those at Edison Elementary School where Rotarians frequently read to students as part of the Rotary Reads program.

Heading the Rotary effort each year is Poly alum and attorney Frank Newell. Long Beach Rotary is the city's oldest and largest service club.



GIFTED — Preschooler Carlos Morales reads a new book to Rotary member Brian Russell at the West Child Development Center. Preschoolers thanked Rotary for donating more than \$7,500 in books. In the background is Rotary President Blake Christian.



ROMANTIC GETAWAY — Sorath Sarith and Patrick Bui completed kindergarten at Addams Elementary School in 1985. They lost touch, reconnected years later, and just returned to Addams to get engaged. Here they escape from the playground. The wedding is this month.

PTA Leader to Fill School Board Seat

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education voted 4-0 today, March 23, to appoint longtime school volunteer and PTA leader Diana Craighead to fill the District 5 seat on the five-member board.

Craighead has lived in District 5 for 19 years and has served on several school district committees including the Budget Advisory Committee, Academic and Career Success Initiative Committee, Health Advisory Committee, and A through G College Entrance Requirements Committee. She also has served in several leadership roles for the PTA, including as president of the Long Beach Council PTA, the umbrella group for all PTAs in the school district.

The board seat became vacant Jan. 25 when board member David Barton resigned due to health concerns. District 5 includes much of East Long Beach and Lakewood, including Millikan and Lakewood high schools.

Craighead has a tenth grade daughter at Millikan High School and two sons who graduated from Wilson Classical High School in 2005 and 2008.

The board filled the vacancy after an application and interview process. The field of applicants for the vacant school board seat was narrowed from 27 to 22, and LBUSD posted online the applications of the remaining candidates.

After the initial 27 applications were received, five applicants either withdrew or were disqualified because they did not live within the board district or were not registered to vote there. The remaining field of 22 candidates was eventually narrowed to three finalists who were interviewed publicly by the school board.

First-round interviews of the applicants were conducted by a committee that included a representative of support staff employees along with representatives of the school district's management association and the Long Beach Council PTA. The Teachers Association of Long Beach declined to participate. The committee also conducted second-round interviews of six finalists before recommending the top three candidates to the school board.

Craighead will complete the remainder of the District 5 term, which expires in July 2014. She is scheduled to be sworn into office during the next school board meeting at 5 p.m. March 27.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2012-13 school year.

Transfer request forms may be filled out online through the myLBUSD portal at lbschools.net. Log into the portal using your Novell user name and password. From the Applications menu, select Certificated Transfers.

The forms also are available at all schools, offices and the Teachers Association of Long Beach office.

Call ext. 8635 for more information.

Race with a View

Race with a View, a 5K/10K run to benefit the non-profit counseling group JFCS of Long Beach/West Orange County, is scheduled for Sunday, April 1 along the beachfront below Bluff Park. Registration starts at 7 a.m.

Learn more at racewithaview.org.

• College Promise 'In Greater Peril Than Ever'

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taken advantage of the tuition-free semester.

The College Promise also guarantees LBUSD graduates admission to CSULB with minimum requirements. The latest report shows that 729 LBUSD students entered CSULB as freshmen in 2011 – more students than ever before and a 40 percent increase from 2008 when the College Promise began.

The new report also shows:

- Nearly three of four LBUSD graduates (74 percent) are pursuing post-secondary education within one year of graduation. Half of those students are enrolled at CSULB or LBCC.

- LBCC fall 2011 enrollment of LBUSD graduates increased to 1,675 despite funding cuts and reduced LBCC course offerings.

- LBUSD students' college readiness in English and math proficiency improved even as participation rates increased significantly.

- While the number and proportion of CSULB freshmen from LBUSD has grown, the percentage requiring math and English remediation has decreased.

- LBCC students from LBUSD continue to be much more likely to persist in college. LBUSD students' persistence dramatically out-

paces the persistence rate of students entering from other high schools.

- Since the establishment of the College Promise, CSULB transfer students from LBCC are retaining at a higher rate than nonlocal community college transfers admitted with more rigorous criteria.

Education leaders released the report this week during a news conference at Cabrillo High School. Officials at the news conference also awarded 27 scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$250 to LBUSD eighth graders who have shown academic improvement.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott also spoke at the event, calling the College Promise a statewide model of collaboration.

View the full report on the College Promise at www.longbeachcollegepromise.org.

A Thousand Thanks To Business Partners

The Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees will honor more than 1,000 new and continuing school business partners at 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 23 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach.

This year's event is free and will include complimentary appetizers courtesy of ALBEM. Schools added 84 business partners this year, bringing the total of new and continuing partners to 1,222. Earning the most business partnerships this year is Longfellow Elementary School with 15, followed closely by Lafayette Elementary School with 14.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Dates to Remember

April	
1	April Fools Day
2	International Children's Book Day
4	Third Quarter Ends
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
6	Good Friday
6	California Poppy Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "No Time to Waste," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
7-8	Passover, First Days
8	Easter
8-14	National Library Week
9-13	Spring Recess
13-14	Passover, Concluding Days
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
15-21	Public School Volunteer Week
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 19 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 26 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day U.S.A.
22-28	Administrative Professionals Week
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
25	Administrative Professionals Day
26	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
27	National Arbor Day