



school bulletin

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

February 8, 2013

Classified Employees Voting on Benefits

The membership of the local chapter of the California School Employees Association is voting this week on a health benefits agreement with the Long Beach Unified School District.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), eligible CSEA bargaining unit members would no longer pay the current 5 percent employee contribution for health benefits, but instead would be subject to terms similar to the health benefits program recently approved for represented certificated employees and for non-represented employees.

The vote by membership was to conclude by end of day on Thursday, Feb. 7.

Pending the CSEA membership's OK, the Board of Education would then consider the agreement for final approval.

View the MOU at lbschools.net under Bargaining Update.

Lakewood JROTC Wins Nationally

Lakewood High School's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps students recently earned first place and other high honors in a national academic contest.

The Lakewood students competed against 700 teams, entering five teams of their own (each with five students). Lakewood teams placed 1st, 6th, 11th, 12th and 18th.

The competition involves a test that students take at their school, said Pauline Bullock, naval science instructor at Lakewood. Test question topics included history, math, science and the military. The contest is sponsored by the national Fleet Reserve Association, a non-profit group of enlisted personnel.

Lakewood competes in the Secretary of the Navy's national contest this month.

Decision Postponed on School Schedules

A Board of Education vote that had tentatively been set for Feb. 5 regarding proposed school schedule changes may instead take place at one of the board's public meetings in the coming weeks.

Once a new date for the vote is established, the school district will provide advanced notice to parents, employees and the community.

The postponement gives Long Beach Unified School District staff additional time to carefully review public input that was provided at a Jan. 29 meeting, where staff provided the board with two options (Plan A and Plan B, available at lbschools.net).

As part of the school district's ongoing efforts to make the wisest use of its limited

LBUSD Among 5 Top Systems Worldwide

An international study includes the Long Beach Unified School District among five of the world's highest performing school systems.

The "Global Education Study" is the latest publication from the national non-profit Battelle for Kids organization. The Ohio-based group provides a wide array of school improvement services to educators nationwide.

"We define a high-performing system as one in which low-performing students perform not much differently than top-performing students, and where family socioeconomic status is not a significant driver of student performance," the study states. "High-performing systems are in the top ranks on quality, equity, and productivity and recognize the importance of international benchmarking. Ultimately, we choose Finland; Hong Kong; Long Beach, California; Ontario, Canada; and Singapore from a larger list of high-performing systems."

Among that "larger list" were 20 school systems whose student achievement results were examined in an exhaustive 2010 study by McKinsey & Company, a trusted advisor and provider of data to many of the most influential businesses and institutions in the world. For the latest study, Battelle officials visited school districts before publishing their findings on educators' best practices.

"We're honored and grateful to be in the company of some of the world's leading school systems again," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser said. "As this study explains, we work hard to provide all students a good education regardless of the hurdles they face. We accomplish this work through a collaborative effort involving our employees, parents, higher education partners and the larger community. We thank everyone who contributes to these important efforts."

The study found six common drivers leading to student success: early learning; personalization and pathways for success; teacher selectivity, quality and growth; focus on learning; education linked to economic development; and cultural expectation of value.

Long Beach, for instance, implements a pathways program, the report states. As the second-busiest port in the U.S., and with its proximity to Los Angeles, the Long Beach Port Authority is a significant jobs creator for the area. From truck drivers to aerospace specialists, the port requires skilled workers to drive the business engine for the region. Long Beach's high school pathway programs are closely tied to the needs of business through advisory boards that ensure instruction in the pathways includes elements required for graduates to be ready to enter the workforce. Campuses are organized by the pathways, and students identify themselves with future career options by the time they are sophomores.

The report also praised the quality of Long Beach's teachers and the professional development they receive.

"Long Beach teachers are comfortable sharing best practices with their colleagues and asking for help. Teachers are invested in the district (70 percent live within the district), and the district invests in them by providing systematic and in-depth professional development.

"Long Beach uses two other approaches that have policy and practice efficacy. First, the district works collaboratively with a regional higher education partner to 'manage' the quality of novice and master teachers employed by the district. The district is closely tied to California State University, Long Beach. Many Long Beach employees teach pre-service courses at the college, grooming teachers for 'The Long Beach Way' prior to (Continued on next page)



GLOBAL
Education Study

Six Drivers of Student Success

A Look Inside Five of the World's
Highest-Performing School Systems



FORWARD PROGRESS – New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez spoke to students about the importance of education during a recent awards assembly at Grant Elementary School. Student of the Month Isaac Wanewright displays his freshly autographed certificate. Sanchez, a Long Beach native, and his brother, Nick, also assist students at Grant and three other local elementary schools through The Volunteer Center's Food for Kids program. The program delivers bags of groceries to school each Friday for students whose families do not have enough food to get through the weekend.

Museum of Tolerance Appreciates Teachers

The Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles has announced Teacher Appreciation Days. Teachers will be admitted at no charge with current school ID from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Guests are welcome at regular admission charges.

Online registration is required at museumoftolerance.com.

Monroe's Good Deed

With Monroe K-8 School scheduled to close in June, the school's annual frozen dessert fundraiser became unnecessary because the funds would not be needed for the following year. But the student body has decided to hold the spring fundraiser anyway, with proceeds going to the Long Beach Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a "home-away-from-home" for families so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost.

World's Best Systems Hire Great Teachers

(Continued from first page)
their work in the district. This intentional approach to preparation and selection begins to build a consistent set of approaches and behaviors across the district.

"Second, Long Beach relies heavily on 'in-house' rather than vendor professional development, with highly skilled instructional coaches assessing and informing the classroom instruction of peers. An important element of this approach is a common language for professional learning for principals and teachers. Additionally, the culture of high expectations is followed through at all levels. For example, the district has no 'terminal' assistant principal positions. Staff promoted to assistant principalships are expected to learn and grow into the principal position within a set timeframe. If they do not, these staff move to another career path."

The report says good test results are a byproduct of helping students own and master their own learning.

"This is one of the reasons why as part of 'The Long Beach Way,' students help set their own learning goals and performance targets. As a part of this approach, each student receives a combination of large group, small group, and individualized instruction – including coaching and intervention whenever needed. With a large population of immigrant students from Latin America, each classroom welcomes new students and integrates their learning throughout the year. Instead of being a disruption, new students receive wraparound intervention services immediately, so that they can become accustomed socially and academically while they learn a new language. Another approach Long Beach uses is common learning tools across grades. For example, elementary and high school students alike use 'thinking maps' to organize their writing."

Summer Workers

Extended school year and summer employment is only available to current 10-month classified employees.

This year's application deadline is Friday, March 15.

Classified employees are responsible for providing their completed application to the Personnel Commission either in person or via U.S. or district mail. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

For questions, please call Mary Cates, Human Resources supervisor, at 997-8000, ext. 7285.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
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Long Beach can remain focused on student support because of the relative continuity of leadership across the district, the report states.

"Additionally, despite a high amount of (student) mobility, including new English Language Learners across many classrooms, every student is expected to perform. From an early age, students select their desired college, major and career. In all classrooms, the students' self-expressed, personal high expectations are posted on the walls, as a reminder that everyone can and will go far in life. To support that performance, state standards are also posted, along with the path for meeting and exceeding them."

In a section on "Cultural Expectation of Value," the report finds common threads of success in Long Beach and Ontario, Canada:

"Ontario and Long Beach face a more turbulent financial climate. But they have kept mission over money as the driving force behind most of their decisions."

Learn more at battelleforkids.org.

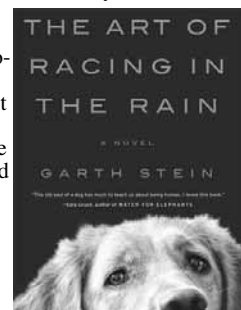
Long Beach Reads

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation is launching its twelfth citywide reading festival with the announcement of the chosen book: *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by Garth Stein.

This community-focused project is designed to bring people together, and to nurture the enjoyment of literature by encouraging everyone in Long Beach to read the same book at the same time. This year's event will be held March 12 to 19.

Everyone in the city is invited to participate by reading, discussing and attending events highlighting the chosen book and its themes. Most events are open to the public and are free, and several local schools participate in events each year.

Learn more at lbplfoundation.org.



Names in the News

The California Association for Bilingual Education will honor Henry K-8 School second grader **Kyle Lough** for winning a student essay contest, and Millikan High School senior **Alejandra Gonzalez** for winning a student art contest, at the CABE 2013 Conference scheduled for Feb. 13 to 16 at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Retirements, Leaves

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2013-14 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator by Friday, March 1. Forms are available from site secretaries or at lbschools.net under Human Resource Services-Current Employees.

Recent STRS legislation limits retirees from substituting during the first 180 days of retirement. Visit calstrs.com for more information.