



school bulletin

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

January 9, 2004

Governor's Proposals Will Affect Schools

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today is expected to release his proposed state budget following Tuesday's State of the State address. Next week the Long Beach Unified School District will begin to analyze the impact of state cuts upon local education, with top priority here given to protecting classroom instruction. The California Legislature has until June to approve a State budget, which includes K-12 education funding.

Early indications of the Governor's priorities were revealed in his State of the State message:

"We must make better use of the money that we spend on our schools," he said.

"My proposal gets more money into the classroom and thus increases per-pupil funding."

"We must give local schools the power to

meet the specific needs of their own communities.

"We can do this by consolidating \$2 billion of categorical programs and cutting the strings to Sacramento.

"This will give schools the freedom to spend the money as they--not Sacramento--best see fit to serve the children."

Superintendent Chris Steinhauer was "encouraged that the governor is beginning to address the fiscal crisis that is affecting every California school district.

"He recognizes that we must protect classroom instruction," said Steinhauer.

"His proposal to give local school districts freedom to use limited state funds where they are most needed should help. We would welcome the consolidation of state categorical programs to allow greater efficiency and local control. If given this opportunity, we can accomplish more for students even during these lean times.

"We also hope he succeeds with workers comp reform, energy rate reductions and recovering California's fair share of federal tax dollars, which should help our schools."

The governor has worked out a compromise with CTA and state education leaders that suspends Prop. 98 guarantees, while providing \$200 more per student and picking up increases in education retirement fund costs.

N.Y. Choreographer, Mom Inspire Dancers

Wilson Classical High School Dance Department's Winter Dance Concert this month will feature the work of visiting guest choreographer Joy Matthews.

Matthews, currently starring in an off-Broadway musical in New York, is spending this week at Wilson choreographing an 11-minute dance called "The Red Shoes," her interpretation from the movie of the same name. She's performed on Broadway in "The Music Man," "Ragtime" and "Showboat."

The talented Wilson graduate is working with 35 advanced dancers, including lead dancers Savannah Moore, Lauren Caley, Krysia Biggs and Shelby Webster. The dancers are devoting long afternoon and evening hours to learn and polish the demanding moves.

On January 30, the Dr. Janet H. Mason Beginning Dancer Annual Scholarship, a \$1,500 award in private dance lessons for a novice dancer from Wilson, will be announced. Mason was the dance teacher at Wilson from 1974 to 1986 and the catalyst for the school's Dance Department. She inspired current Wilson dance teacher Joyce Ctvrtlik, then a student at Wilson, to pursue a teaching career. Mason currently serves as mentor to student teachers at the University of South Carolina.

Mason will be flying from there with her family to make the first presentation of her scholarship. Mason also happens to be the mother of guest choreographer Matthews, so the evening of January 30 will become a family affair, with Matthews flying from New York to see the Wilson production and scholarship award presented by her mother.

The Winter Dance Concert will be held January 29-30 in the Wilson auditorium. Reserved seating is \$10, regular pre-sale \$5 and at the door \$7. For information, call 433-0481, ext. 6146.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Monday, January 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Lakewood High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer. All interested employees are invited to attend.

OFF BROADWAY-- Talented New York choreographer Joy Matthews, daughter of former Wilson teacher Dr. Janet Mason, puts students through their paces preparing "The Red Shoes" for this month's Winter Dance Concert. The veteran performer in "The Music Man," "Ragtime" and "Showboat" led Wilson dancers in rehearsals this week.

Board President Will Step Down This Year

(The following remarks by Bobbie Smith, Board of Education president, were made at a recent school board meeting.)

As many of you know, I have devoted most of my life to public education. I consider this district to be what the Broad Foundation, the Milken Foundation, and many other state and national awards have recently confirmed. This truly is the best urban school system in



America. I hope I have contributed in some tangible ways to the wonderful improvements we've experienced and the great success our staff and schools and students are achieving. Today's STAR School awards remind me what a privilege it is to participate in America's most important work -- the education

of our children -- in a place that does it so well.

I have enjoyed almost every minute. I don't know if you realize it, but Long Beach is the birthplace of a new renaissance that creates bright futures for all children. That happens not only because of Board policies. It happens because of heroic teachers and classified employees who give our students their best every day.

So it is with great pride in what you do so well, and all you will do in the years ahead, that I announce that this spring I will be completing my fourth and final term on the Board of Education. Although I will not be seeking re-election, I will be leaving the district in very capable hands. What a great honor it has been to serve you.

(Continued on back page)



CBET Staff Collect Golden Bell Award

The Long Beach Unified School District collected the Golden Bell Award recently for its unique Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) classes. The award is the California School Board Association's highest honor.

Accepting the award at a statewide awards ceremony in San Diego was Board of Education Member Jim Choura, Long Beach School for Adults Vice Principal Rosi Pedersen, and CBET Program Facilitator Vicki Roberts. Honored at the ceremony were CBET teachers Peggy Kozlowski, Hiroko Endo, Mary Merralls and Linda Goonetilleke.

The award was one of 50 Golden Bells given this year to California schools and districts whose work is considered exemplary, innovative and replicable elsewhere.

"It was inspiring and reassuring to see all the programs throughout the state that are doing great things for students. We were very honored to be there," Pedersen said. "We plan to display the prize prominently this Friday. Then we'll return it to the Superintendent."

The innovative tutoring provided by the School for Adults helps parents and children become literate and fluent in English. At local elementary schools, parents learn tutoring strategies and useful English phrases in adult classes. They immediately tutor children in class, using their new skills. At home the same evening, they use videos and worksheets, and they assist their own children with homework.

The district now has won four Golden Bell Awards, including statewide recognition for CBET, school uniforms, beginning teacher support project, and Project PEAKS training for teachers of English.

The Job Board

- Hoover Middle School is inviting applications for a GATE sixth grade mathematics position that will become available Tuesday, January 27. Interested teachers should call principal Mike Troyer at 421-1213.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for human resources assistant.

In Memoriam

Marie Vandiver
former Library Services assistant
December 6, 2003

Nancy Weingartner
teacher, Hoover
January 1, 2004

Mary Pat Bamrick
teacher, Burcham
January 2, 2004

Stuart Martin
custodian, Garfield
January 4, 2004

Edward Nichols, Jr.
former principal
January 6, 2004

• Smith To Step Down

(Continued from front page)

There is no other calling that helps so many accomplish so much for so long – a calling that makes a lasting difference in the quality of life for our children and grandchildren.

Here in the most diverse city in America we are getting results that others may not have thought possible. We have seen students and schools rise to high expectations.

This district is on the way up in student achievement, in major awards and honors, in national teacher certification, in Seamless Education, in parent involvement, and in community support. Our district is a place where people from all walks of life have agreed and promised each other that learning really matters. We represent the best of what America has to offer because we make the American Dream come true every day.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this. In my book, you're the best. Every day you give the gift that no one can ever take away: a good education. I am proud to say I know you.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPs) are **Don Fraser, Riley; Barbara Israel, Gant; Carleton Pilsedker, School for Adults; Gina Quarnstrom, Emerson; Rebecca Rankins, Lafayette; Kim Snow, Tincher; and Elaine Taylor, Hill.**

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Jimmy Collins, plant supervisor I, Burnett; **Maria Deseo**, credential services specialist, Human Resource Services;

Shawna Holmquist, elementary school office supervisor, Addams;

Polly Kennedy, plant supervisor II, Hill; **Timothy McGivney**, instructional aide-special, The Willows.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Helen Wilkerson	January 29	Chris Cook ext. 5815
David Miller	January 29	Dyaisha Yarber ext. 1550

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Schools Get New Copiers at Old Cost

Teachers and staff at elementary and middle schools may be wondering why new photocopiers are replacing old ones at their schools-- despite the major budget crunch facing the Long Beach Unified School District.

The answer is a win-win solution to high maintenance costs for Xerox, the company that leases the equipment to the district. After churning out nearly a million copies a year, the older machines were breaking down more often, requiring expensive service calls and generating more complaints from schools.

At no increase in the cost of its lease agreement with the district, Xerox agreed to replace the old copy machines with new, faster, sturdier, more powerful machines. The bottom line: schools get to use new dependable machines, Xerox saves on repair costs and the district does not have to spend more for the new machines.

Celebrate Education

Education Celebration 2004 will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, January 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cabrillo High School Main Gymnasium, 2001 Santa Fe Ave. Guests enter the campus from Willard Avenue and follow the signs to free parking.

Combining the features of an exposition and a community festival, Education Celebration is a major draw to the public, attracting thousands of people each year. Families have the opportunity to visit the booths of every K-8 school in the district. They can also learn about magnet schools, GATE, School for Adults, after-school child care, special education and many other services.

Free buses will depart for the Education Celebration from Lakewood High School, 8:30 a.m.; Jordan, 8:45 and 9:45 a.m.; Millikan, 8:25 a.m.; Wilson, 8:35 a.m.; and Poly, 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. All return buses depart Cabrillo at noon. For information, call ext. 8047.

Schools Help Others

- Cubberley School students, staff and parents raised \$1,535.20 for the recent Southern California wildfire victims. The collection was sponsored by the School Site Council and the English Learners Advisory Committee.

- The recent Red Cross blood drive at Jordan High School successfully generated 133 pints in donations.

Did You Know?

In comparison with other governmental agencies that have been criticized for "swimming in consultants," the Long Beach Unified School District is not even up to its little toe.

The district used only a fraction of one percent of its general fund budget for professional/consulting services last year. Of its total unrestricted general fund budget, the district spent 0.5 percent for outside consultants.

Source: 2003-04 LBUSD Adopted Budget

"Education is the road to equality and citizenship."
--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.