



# school bulletin

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

April 23, 2004

## District Ties for Most Distinguished Schools

An unprecedented 11 elementary schools in the Long Beach Unified School District won the California Distinguished School Award this week. Only Los Angeles -- eight times the size of Long Beach -- earned as many awards.

Winners of the highest state honor include Alvarado, Cubberley, Keller, Kettering, Longfellow, Lowell, Naples, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Stevenson and Tucker schools.

Each school competed in rigorous selection and screening conducted by the California Department of Education. The state named finalists after reviewing extensive, detailed applications and sending a team of educators to visit and evaluate each campus. Each winning school is now qualified to apply for the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

To earn the top California school award, a school must demonstrate:

- High academic expectations for all students
- Achievement above state standards
- Strong leadership
- Challenging learning experiences
- Strong curriculum and materials
- Competent, caring teachers focused on standards

- Excellent library services and technology
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling
- Support for students who are learning English, who are at risk, or who have physical or learning disabilities

- Family involvement and partnerships with business and community

- A safe environment that promotes citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness

Schools selected for recognition will be honored Friday, May 21 during a ceremony in Anaheim at the Disneyland Hotel. State Superintendent Jack O'Connell will present each school with a plaque and special flag. The event and awards are funded by donations from prominent California corporations and statewide education organizations.

California Distinguished Schools in the Long Beach Unified School District include four repeat winners: Cubberley, Kettering, Lowell and Signal Hill. Other previous top

## New Board Member

Dr. Felton Williams, Long Beach City College dean, this month was elected to the Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District. In a landslide vote, Williams outpolled candidate W. Mack Tyson by a three-to-one margin.

Williams received 2,181 votes; Tyson, 677. Williams will take office in July, filling the seat to be vacated by Board of Education President Bobbie Smith. She is retiring after 16 years on the Board.

Incumbent Jon Meyer, who ran unopposed in the recent election, also will begin a new term in July.

state award winners are Polytechnic and Wilson high schools; California Academy of Mathematics and Science; Hughes, Rogers and Stanford middle schools; Avalon, Hudson and Newcomb schools; and Barton, Cleveland, Fremont, Gant, International, Los Cerritos, Madison, Prisk, and Twain elementary schools.

## Chavez Elementary

The Board of Education this week named the district's newest school Cesar Chavez Elementary School. The Board also elected Susan Rivard as principal of the new school at Broadway and Golden. It is scheduled to open in September for approximately 800 students.

Chavez was a civil rights, farm worker and labor leader beginning in the 1950s until his death in 1993. A strong believer in the principles of nonviolence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chavez is best known for the creation and leadership of the National Farm Workers Association.

## Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 3, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Wilson High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

## Talented Teacher Named Lakewood Legend

One of the Long Beach Unified School District's most respected teachers, Lakewood High School's Quentin Wood, was named a Legend of Lakewood at the city's recent 50th anniversary celebration. The event honored



Wood

leaders who have helped to shape and strengthen Lakewood, including many City of Lakewood founders. Wood has taught students here for more than 38 years. The affable English and history teacher has served as the school's History Department chair. He was the yearbook adviser and site coordinator

for the planning and implementation of a new major grant to personalize large high schools for students, staff and parents by creating small learning communities. Wood also helped to develop new courses and served on several crucial committees,



**ROCKET SCIENCE**--The California Academy of Mathematics and Science freshman rocket team will travel to Virginia next month to compete in the finals of the Team America Rocketry Challenge. The CAMS team built a rocket that carried two raw eggs to 1,250 feet and returned them to Earth unbroken. Members are Liana Brown, Daniel Collier, Noel Nino Las Piñas, Audra Shaw and David Wynne. Their adviser is science teacher Tom Jett.

including the Service Learning and Character Education committees. Service learning gives all high school students real-world experience in community service. Character education equips students with a moral and ethical basis for making sound decisions.

Wood was nominated for the award by Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

"He expects a lot of his students and gets legendary results," Steinhauser said.

Steinhauser praised him for being highly respected by parents, peers and students, and for making lasting contributions to the lives of thousands of Lakewood youngsters.

## District Website A Hit

More than 2,000 people are visiting the Long Beach Unified School District's award-winning website daily, up from about 700 hits per day last year. The new revamped website improved its navigation this month, providing more rapid access to information. To try it, log on [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us).

## Nominate Nation's Best Classified Employees

The deadline for nominating employees for the Classified Employee of the Year Award has been extended to Tuesday, May 4. There is still time to spotlight outstanding classified co-workers -- the unsung school heroes who deserve recognition for going the extra mile.

This year's winner will be recognized as the best classified employee of American's best urban school district: Long Beach Unified.

The annual award recognizes exemplary classified employees who support the district's educational mission, demonstrate a commitment to being a team player and positive role model, strive for excellence in personal performance, and contribute significantly to classroom support or the business operations of the district. Employees who have been nominated in prior years may be nominated again.

District classified or certificated employees may nominate an exemplary classified employee. Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible.

Nomination forms have been sent to each site. They are also available at the Personnel Commission web site, [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) (click on Jobs, then Personnel Commission and Classified Employee of the Year Nomination Form). Nomination forms printed from the website should be filled out and then faxed to 435-8932, or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee. Completed forms also may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists will be announced at the Classified

## Dates to Remember

May	
1	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
1	Law Day
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Week
2-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
2-9	Reading is Fun Week
4	National Teacher Day
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
12	California Day of the Teacher
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Total War" (Memorial Day), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Southeast Asia: How Does Change Occur?" (Asian/Pacific Cultures), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
16-22	National Educational Bosses' Week
16-22	Classified Employee Week
17	Armed Forces Day
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 20 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "High School Graduation--A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
31	Memorial Day

## Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Cecelia Osborn	May 12	Kathy Brown 984-5897
Julie Behar	May 19	Sue Footdale ext. 4615
Genny Choy	May 19	Stephanie Kishaba ext. 3605
Judy Mattson	May 21	Nancy Clanton ext. 6620
Linda Griffith	June 7	Cindy Archambault ext. 3810
Bobbie Smith	June 24	Doris Robinson ext. 6605

Employee Beach Blanket Barbecue at the Teacher Resource Center on Friday, May 21. The top award winner will be announced at the Board of Education's meeting on June 1.

Last year, 53 classified employees were nominated for the award. Ten qualified as finalists, and the winner was announced to a cheering audience at a packed Board of Education meeting. For information, call 435-5708.

## Tuba, Or Not Tuba?

The Symphonic Band at Washington recently took the highest honor at a festival sponsored by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. The band earned a "Unanimous Superior" rating, which is the highest possible rating from all judges.

After-school rehearsals began two months ago, with members foregoing other activities.

The band experienced a few challenges along the way to victory. One major hurdle occurred only two weeks before the festival. The only tuba player transferred out of band class. To replace the missing player, eighth grader Traidon Phylow learned the tuba in less than two weeks.

Benjamin Rodriguez directs the band.

## Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

**Magdy Abdalla**, construction manager, Maintenance;

**Gwen Alin**, Human Resources technician, Human Resource Services;

**Jacquelyn Brown**, food service supervisor II, Lindbergh;

**Sharon Chandler**, Head Start instructional aide, Head Start;

**Amy Clements**, senior office assistant, Maintenance;

**Ella Encisco**, Kids Club supervisor II, Bixby Kids Club;

**Jenny Enriquez Pacheco**, intermediate office assistant, Franklin;

**Julio Hernandez**, lead custodian, Operations;

**Thomas Hickman**, assistant security director, Security and Emergency Preparedness;

**Roy Hunt**, instructional aide intensive behavioral treatment, The Willows;

**Cristina Lopez**, food service supervisor I, Burroughs;

**Lamonte Stinson**, lead custodian, Wilson.

## Open Enrollment, Benefits Meeting

The Long Beach Unified School District and Superior Administrators, Inc. will host three information meetings to introduce new health insurance benefit plans approved recently. They will answer any questions employees have. A handout outlining the various programs and enrollment forms will also be made available for employees.

**Open enrollment for TALB members and retirees is taking place this week through Friday, May 21.**

The information meetings will be held Monday, April 26, and Wednesday, April 28, at Marshall Middle School, 5870 Wardlow Road; and Tuesday, May 4, at Lakewood High School, 4400 Briercree Ave. All meetings are 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Get Reimbursed

Some Long Beach Unified School District employees were incorrectly charged \$5 per doctor's office visit to Kaiser in February. To be reimbursed, please fax your receipts to Mary Helen Padilla at (714) 748-2629.

## The Job Board

- Lakewood High School is looking for a talented and motivated English teacher for the ATM magnet. The applicant should have strong technology skills and a desire to work collaboratively in a small learning community magnet. For information, call Al Taylor at ext. 3400.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for building maintenance worker, construction manager, emergency preparedness manager, food service supervisor I, II or III, grounds equipment operator II, intermediate food service worker and senior food service worker.

## Reading Recovery

Reading Recovery, a short-term intervention program for the lowest achieving first grade readers, will hold an awareness session Tuesday, April 27, 3:45-5:30 p.m. in Building D, Room 12 at Sutter Elementary School. Schools interested in having teachers trained in Reading Recovery may send a team to the meeting.

"Show me your friends and I'll show you your future."  
--Nalhida Twal

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## In Memoriam

**Eva Northrup**  
former EONA supervisor  
March 31, 2004

**Carolyn Phelps**  
former teacher  
April 3, 2004