



November 5, 2004

## Schools Wow 200 Guest Principals for a Day

More than 200 guest principals from business and industry were most impressed by the high quality instruction, dedicated leadership and focused students they saw during a recent day of shadowing principals. The fifth annual Principal for a Day event was sponsored by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and the Long Beach Education Foundation.

After visiting 90 local schools, guest principals attended a wrap-up reception and debriefing session at the Long Beach Hilton. Their observations reveal strong support for what they witnessed:

"It was excellent. I was amazed at the test score improvement since the principal, Miriam Garcia, has been at Burroughs. They are applying a business model to education, the Baldrige process. I was fascinated because of the feedback scenario, with students rating themselves and taking ownership of their own education, asking themselves, 'Did I really behave well and use my time wisely this week?'"—Larry Forester, councilmember, City of Signal Hill

"We were just extraordinarily impressed by what we saw at Hill Classical Middle School: the rise in scores, several grant projects and the way the administration ran the school. I couldn't believe it when they described how far the school has come. It's an amazing accomplishment."—Susan Forman, Forman Consulting

"My impression of Millikan High School was very favorable. The job of principal was quite different than I thought—much more active. We visited a 3-D art class that was very engaging—one of the best classes I've ever visited. That was impressive, because we always hear about the need for more arts in our schools."—Bradley Wells, vice president for finance and administration, The J. Paul Getty Trust

"Both of the principals at Millikan are doing a great job of taking a large enterprise and running it efficiently. Every classroom we went into had a clear list of standards and objectives as to what that class was going to focus on that day. The culture of the school reflects a very business-like attitude, something you would find in the private sector. It's clear that the students know what they need to learn."—Gregory McGinity, director of policy, The Broad Foundation

"It's amazing what they're doing at Cabrillo High School. The students are motivated, energized and excited to learn. The equipment and classes they offer are amazing. They're doing great things there. Principals Mel Collins and Cynthia Terry really care about the students. They love what they do, and that's reciprocated by the students.

"I think this is something that everyone in the workforce should experience. I really believe it is important for students to hear and see people who can talk about their jobs and how they got to where they are. It gives students an incentive to achieve. It reminds me that life is not just about me and my job. It's

about helping somebody else. Sometimes we get so caught up in our own jobs that we forget the need out there."—Yvonne Allen, chief wharfinger, Port of Long Beach.

"There are some really incredible things going on at Jordan High School, with the International Baccalaureate and AIMS (Aspirations in Medical Services). The school is run beautifully by the principals. It's a great school with great leadership. We're delighted to be a part of that effort."—Craig Watson, vice president, Charter Communications.

"What we saw at Wilson High School today was something we do at UPS (United Parcel Service)—management by walking around. There's a lot of pride in the Long Beach Unified School District, and it starts with leadership. We have nothing to change at Wilson High School because principals Sandy Blazer and Alex Flores and their people do their jobs with respect, love and dignity."—Bruce MacRae, public affairs manager, UPS

"I was struck by the absolute engagement of students and the strategic, systematic focus on curriculum and professional development. I was also struck by the discipline of the 4,600 students at Wilson High School."—Lou Anne Bynum, chair of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and LBCC Vice President for Economic and Resources Development

"There was terrific interaction between students and teachers. Clearly Long Beach is setting the standard for school districts across the country. Superintendent Chris Steinhauser has built a great team with great energy. You can just tell when you walk into a school with him that people are so supportive of Chris. One of the key secrets we have here is the involvement of the community. That's a tribute to our educational system and the passion of our educators."—Randal Hernandez, appointments secretary for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**TAKING OVER--**  
Guest school chiefs Lou Anne Bynum and Randal Hernandez had high praise for schools they visited while shadowing the superintendent on campus visits. They described their Principal for a Day experiences at a wrap-up session at the Long Beach Hilton. Guest principals were encouraged by what they saw, especially the quality of leadership, teaching and learning.



## Lakewood Named NASA Explorer Site

Lakewood High School had a visitor from outer space this week to inaugurate the school's selection as a NASA Explorer School.

Astronaut/Flight Surgeon David Wolf has logged 158 days in space over three different missions. Wednesday, he visited science and technology classrooms at Lakewood and spoke to packed assemblies about space exploration and space-related occupations. Joining him was Rich O'Toole, manager of the Office of Legislative and International Affairs at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Lakewood is one of 50 schools nationwide—the only high school in California—selected to be a NASA Explorer School. The three-year partnership will bring to Lakewood scientific and engineering adventures that engage students using unique NASA resources and capabilities. The program is designed to give students the foundation and inspiration to pursue careers in science, math and technology.

Physical science teachers Aaron Volkoff, Miles Loveall and Lindsay Penney recently helped students design an experiment to be conducted in near-zero gravity. In April, the three will travel to Houston to conduct the experiment in NASA's "Vomit Comet," an aircraft designed to simulate weightlessness by rapid descents from high altitudes.

## Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, November 9, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

## Extraordinary Efforts, Excellent Progress

By Chris Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

We have so much to be thankful for this year. All of our high schools recently met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria for school performance--an outstanding achievement. I have received calls from superintendents of other districts asking how our schools did it.

Not only are our high schools making exemplary progress for record numbers of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Overall, 87 percent of all Long Beach Unified School District schools, in kindergarten through high school, met federal academic benchmarks. We did far better than schools statewide, where only 72 percent of California's Title I schools attained their AYP goals.

Each school's AYP score shows the percentage of students who demonstrate proficiency on rigorous standardized tests. Not only do schools have to meet overall targets for proficiency. Each subgroup of students at the school--including racial-ethnic, socioeconomic, English learner and special education subgroups--must meet those same targets, and at least 95 percent of students must be tested. Some schools have up to six subgroups.

Under federal rules, if even one subgroup misses the mark by even one point, the entire school is labeled deficient. All groups must meet these tough standards to satisfy the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

The real story behind our excellent progress is how our schools, teachers and students are making it happen. Despite \$2 billion in state budget cuts for California public schools this year, we've protected classroom instruction and are working smarter and harder than ever before.

We have better research data and more rapid test results. We are intervening earlier with more assistance, tutoring, academic coaching, better materials and training for teachers and students. We now have 56 nationally certified veteran teachers and provide exemplary support for new teachers. We ask academic departments in schools that excel to share their methods with other schools.

We constantly look for ways to make small, steady improvements that together can make a significant, lasting difference in the quality of education. We have reduced class size this year in fourth and fifth grade.

We have improved our ability to diagnose what each student knows and can do. Areas that need extra help--such as math or English literacy--receive additional instructional time and emphasis. Students are required to master skills before they move on to the next level. Social promotion is a thing of the past.

Many of our schools are now models for other schools throughout the state and nation. They are doing what works and getting better and better results.

What greater gift could we give students in America's best urban schools here in America's most diverse city? We're showing the nation that it can be done.



## Band Spectacular

The 20th annual Long Beach Unified School District High School Band Spectacular will take place Tuesday, November 16, at 7 p.m. at the Millikan High School Stadium.

This stirring event will showcase the marching bands from Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson high schools. They will perform with the Long Beach City College Viking Show Band.

Each school will present its 2004 field show with dance and tall flags performing with the band. A special performance of the combined bands will be conducted by Bob Allen, director of the LBCC Viking Show Band.

Tickets are available in advance from high school band members or at the gate on the evening of the performance. Suggested donation is \$3. All proceeds benefit the high school band programs.

## The Job Board

- The Peer Assistance and Review Program is now accepting applications for two full-time consulting teacher positions for 2005-06. Teachers with expertise in language arts, history, mathematics, or science are encouraged to apply. For information or an application, contact Lisa Isbell at ext. 2900.

- The 21st Century Community Learning Center After School Enrichment Program needs six elementary teachers to design curriculum, model lessons, assist with the implementation of behavior management plans and provide staff development. Candidates must have a strong literacy, math or thematic instructional background and be available up to four hours per week between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Teachers will be paid at their regular hourly rate. For more information and application procedures, contact Ronnie Clare, program facilitator at ext. 7976 or at rclare@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

## New Product Expo

A New Product Expo will be hosted by the Purchasing and Contracts Branch at 2201 Market St. from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9.

More than 25 vendors of classroom materials, books, educational supplies, sporting goods, audio-visual equipment and office products will display their newest items. Teachers and office personnel are invited for free refreshments, samples and door prizes. For information, call Mary Grant at ext. 3021.

### 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.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Health Plans Begin Enrollment Monday

Open enrollment for employees begins Monday, November 8 and ends Tuesday, November 30. Re-enrollment this year is required for all retirees and employees, including those who are not changing health plans.

The Long Beach Unified School District will continue to offer the same choice of plans. Current employees have four health plan options and three dental plans to choose from. The district also provides a vision plan, a life insurance plan, and the Employee Assistance Program.

Open enrollment information packets are being mailed this week. Eligible employees and retirees will be able to re-enroll by submitting enrollment forms to Risk Management or enrolling online.

Employees and retirees who wish to re-enroll with no changes only need to sign and date the re-certification letter in their information packet. That letter lists their current coverage and dependents.

Employees should receive the information packets next week. For a preview, visit [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) under Risk Management in the alphabetical index, where online enrollment will also be available November 8.

For information, check the website or contact Risk Management at ext. 8233.

## Newspapers in Class

CSULB Extension and the Press-Telegram are offering "Teaching Critical Thinking Skills with the Newspaper," a one-unit upper division class on Saturday, November 6.

The workshop for educators includes a class set of newspapers delivered to your school once a week for 10 weeks.

The 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. workshop provides a continental breakfast, tour, lunch and all teaching materials.

The course is \$114 for credit and \$49 for non-credit. For information, call Gayle Knapp at the Press-Telegram, 499-1445.

## Half Marathon Times

Finishing the recent Long Beach Half Marathon were Sedelia Anderson, substitute teacher, 2 hours and 25 minutes; Dede Backstrom, Webster, 2:42; Susan Ballmer, Webster, 2:42; Kalani Caldwell, Poly, 2:13; Joseph Gawel, Cabrillo, 1:58; Stephanie Sasaki, Jefferson, 2:15; Sovann Sy, Cabrillo, 1:32; and Giovanna Tripiano, substitute teacher, 1:57. Hill Middle School was honored for having the best water station along the marathon route.

## In Memoriam

Elinor Vesely  
former counselor  
October 16, 2004

Katherine Kimura-Gorecki  
teacher, Mann  
October 23, 2004