



school bulletin

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

November 19, 2004

Granddaughter Tells Cesar Chavez Legacy

In her comments at the dedication of Cesar Chavez Elementary School this week, Christine Chavez Delgado shared her personal insights about her grandfather:

"I really want to express my gratitude to the community of Long Beach for all that you have done to preserve my grandfather's legacy. Our family has joined you at the opening of your park, and at the Chavez celebrations at the Community Center. I have had the great opportunity to speak with students at Cal State Long Beach as they remembered my grandfather. And I say thank you today for extending an invitation to me and allowing me to say a few words as you dedicate an elementary school in my grandfather's name.

"I would like to relate some personal observations about my grandfather that you usually don't read about in books. He was a strict vegetarian. He meditated daily and practiced yoga. He enjoyed playing handball and softball.

"He was a self-taught learner who read every day. I remember going to so many bookstores and spending hours in them. His office and home were mini-libraries. His reading interests covered a wide array of subjects, from history and biography to management theory and various religious and communal societies. He walked with presidents and popes but never thought of himself as anything but a farm worker. His heroes were Dr. Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi. He learned about the power of the boycott from Dr. King's Birmingham bus boycott. And he learned about the spiritual meaning of fasting from Gandhi.

"The biggest lesson that I learned from my grandfather was that of commitment and dedication. That lesson came when I was 16 years old. In the summer of 1988, my grandmother Helen called us to Delano and told us that my
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Students Share Ideas In Aquarium Essays

Today is the deadline for entries in the Aquarium of the Pacific's essay forum event, "A Healing Word from Local Kids."

Aquarium staff will be at middle and K-8 schools this afternoon to pick up entries. Essays may also be submitted to the Aquarium box office, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, by 5 p.m. today. The 10 best essays will be selected to be read at a public forum on Sunday, November 21 at 3 p.m. at the Aquarium. Student authors and their families will be special guests of the Aquarium.

All seventh grade students have been invited to share their thoughts and concerns about the recent senseless killings of two sharks and
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YES, WE CAN--Cesar Chavez, namesake of Long Beach's newest school, was honored by his granddaughter, Christine Chavez Delgado, at the dedication of the

school this week. Cassielynn Donovan, a first grader, enjoyed the celebration. Principal Susan Rivard and Delgado admire a portrait by Daniel Martinez.

Hundreds Celebrate Chavez School Opening

Hundreds of students, parents, school staff and community leaders this week celebrated the opening of Long Beach's first new downtown school in five years, Cesar Chavez Elementary School. Christine Chavez Delgado, the granddaughter of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez, encouraged students to embrace her grandfather's ideals.

"He would want to be remembered as a person who inspired others, especially students, to dream big," Delgado said.

She praised school and community leaders for making the school a reality.

"The strong leadership you have all provided for working families and for expanding educational opportunities is a model for other communities," Delgado said. When her grandfather was alive, she worked closely with him to spread the word about the struggles of California's farm workers.

At the celebration, bouquets of red and green balloons adorned the entire campus. A large crowd gathered in the gymnasium, where banners were emblazoned with Chavez's trademark ¡Sí, Se Puede! (Yes, We Can!)

Poly High School's Jazz Band filled the gym with smooth sounds. Children sang songs and told stories about Cesar Chavez. Later, the smell of barbecued hamburgers beckoned the audience to lunch in the adjacent Cesar Chavez Park.

The festivities marked the completion of a \$15 million construction project that is allowing more neighborhood children to attend school closer to home. Located at Broadway Street and Golden Avenue, the school opened this fall to 380 students in kindergarten through fifth grade with more expected.

The school has formed a partnership with The Children's Clinic, which is providing a community health center on campus, offering medical care and specialty referrals for children and adults from throughout the neighborhood. The clinic also is offering health education, health promotion, disease prevention and social services.

A partnership with adjacent Cesar Chavez Park allows the public to use the school's gymnasium on weekends and after 4 p.m. weekdays, in exchange for sectioning off a portion of the park as a playground during school hours.

"The students really love having this wonderful, green, spacious area to play in," Chavez Principal Susan Rivard said. "We're creating a school that I believe Cesar Chavez would be proud of."

Built on 2.6 acres, Chavez Elementary offers 65,000 square feet of facilities, including gleaming, energy efficient classrooms, a workroom between every two classrooms and a computer lab and a large gymnasium.

The school also will partner with the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific to provide field trips and science lessons to students.

Funding for the school came from local Measure A school construction and modernization bonds approved overwhelmingly by voters in 1999. The new school is part of the Long Beach Unified School District's largest construction and modernization campaign in half a century.

The beautiful downtown campus was developed in close cooperation with the City of Long Beach. It provides urgently needed classrooms close to where students live.

• Chavez Legacy

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grandfather was undertaking a fast. We had heard about the fasts in the 60's, but I don't think that anyone was prepared for what was to come.

"That summer at the age of 61 my grandfather fasted for 36 days on water only--to protest the use of pesticide poisoning of farm workers and their children. While he fasted week after week, we saw my grandfather go from an active, vibrant person to being bedridden and almost losing his life. I have never witnessed that level of commitment and dedication in any person before or since.

"As we celebrate the dedication of Cesar Chavez Elementary here in Long Beach, it is important to remember who he was: a true American hero; a civil rights, Latino, farm worker and labor leader; a religious and spiritual figure; a community servant and social entrepreneur; a crusader for nonviolent social change; and an environmentalist and consumer advocate.

"Cesar passed away in his sleep 11 years ago on April 23, 1993, in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace of 66 years earlier. More than 50,000 people attended his funeral services in the small town of Delano, California, the same community in which he had planted his seed for social justice only decades before.

"Cesar's life cannot be measured in material terms. He never earned more than \$6,000 a year. He never owned a house. When Cesar passed, he had no savings to leave to his family. I really believe that my grandfather would want to be remembered as a person who made an impact in the lives of not just farm workers but all working class people. He would want to be remembered as a person who inspired others, especially students, to dream big.

"It is my hope that the students, parents, faculty and staff of this new school embrace my grandfather's legacy and promote his beliefs. It is through education, tolerance and service to others that we will make the kind of impact he would be proud of.

"Thank you, and ¡Sí, se puede!"

Delgado lives in Los Angeles and is political director of the United Farm Workers.

• Aquarium Essays

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a ray at the Aquarium. They are encouraged to include their best ideas about what can be done to help people treat animals humanely.

A student may submit one entry of up to 500 words. Each entry should include the student's name, grade, name of English teacher, school name and a daytime phone number where his or her family can be reached tomorrow, November 20.

Essays should address four items:

- What's your reaction to hearing about the break-in and killings?

- Describe your connection to nature.

- What can be done to help people change their behavior toward animals?

- The mission of the Aquarium of the Pacific is to instill a sense of wonder, respect and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants and ecosystems. This message didn't make it through to those persons who killed these animals. What could the Aquarium do better to communicate their message and fulfill their mission?

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Ena Aguilar, intermediate nutrition services worker, Hudson;

Joyce Bachelder, senior nutrition services worker, Sutter;

Heather Bigelow, human resources technician, Human Resources;

Mary Chase, senior office assistant, Purchasing;

Yolanda Chavez, community liaison worker, Roosevelt;

Alma Colorado, Head Start instructional aide, Head Start;

Felicia Combs, administrative secretary, Risk Management;

Norberto Damin, intermediate nutrition services worker, Nutrition Services;

Jose Delamora, plant supervisor I, Burroughs;

Julia Elvira, intermediate nutrition services worker, Nutrition Services;

Ericka Emery, human resources technician, Personnel Commission;

Nicole Epple, Kids Club lead assistant, Bixby/Kids Club;

Jean Hammond, instructional aide-special, Jordan;

Laura Hardie, plant supervisor I, Signal Hill;

Lynnae Hitchcock, Kids Club supervisor I, Kids Club;

Don Jensen, grounds crew supervisor, Operations;

Karen Kemp, human resources supervisor, Human Resource Services;

Joselito Leonor, plant supervisor I, Chavez;

Janice Medford, staff secretary, OCIPD;
Monica Munoz, emergency preparedness

program supervisor, School Safety and Emergency Preparedness;

Christina Murphy, senior office assistant, Special Education;

Jacqueline Westby, elementary school office supervisor, Tucker.

Kimberly White, plant supervisor I, Lafayette.

Kids' Club Aides

The Kids' Club Office is now hiring college aides. The positions are for up to 18 hours per week at \$11.47 per hour, located at 11 sites throughout the district. Applicants should have completed 48 college units and be enrolled in college with 12 undergraduate units, or six graduate units. To apply, call 627-1022.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Teach After School

Evening High School needs teachers to teach CAHSEE prep English and math from January 4 through March 10. EHS is also recruiting teachers for after-school Algebra I classes at all six high schools—Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson—for second semester. Most classes meet two days a week, 2.5 hours a day after school. However, some classes may meet Monday through Thursday for 70 minutes a day.

For an application or information, call Matt Saldana at 595-8893, ext. 271 or Evening High School, 989-7872, ext. 295.

Dates to Remember

December

1	World AIDS Day 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
8-15	Hanukkah 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Christmas" (Holidays for Children), Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Hanukkah/Passover" (Holidays for Children), Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
10	Human Rights Day 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
20-31	Winter Recess
23-24	Christmas--Holidays
25	Christmas Day
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
30	Non-duty equalization day
31	New Year's Day--Holiday

Names in the News

Joan Kennedy and **Patty Nagano**, specialists at Roosevelt, were selected to receive the Hilda Maehling Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Kennedy and Nagano wrote a Learning and Leadership Grant for additional video cameras and release time so that new teachers and their coaches could watch each other's lessons and accelerate the learning of the new teachers. The two will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive their award.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for child nutrition specialist and school community worker-bilingual Spanish.

"The end of all education should surely be service to others."

--Cesar Chavez

In Memoriam

Eleanor Newby
former school nurse
October 17, 2004