



school bulletin

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

March 18, 2005

More Schools Climb Higher on State API

The state's latest Academic Performance Index calculations show that 35 percent of schools in the Long Beach Unified School District improved their statewide rankings compared to last year. About 59 percent remained at their rankings while only 6 percent declined.

Released with the rankings were API growth targets for 2005 along with similar school rankings comparing schools that have similar demographics.

Several schools made strong gains. Lindbergh Middle School recently achieved the greatest gains on the API of any school in LBUSD, improving by 57 points. In the most recent report, Lindbergh's statewide ranking jumped from 3 to 5 in one year, and the school is one of many throughout the district that now rank 10 out of 10 compared to schools with similar student populations. Most schools here continue to meet and exceed state and national targets for growth and achievement.

Ray Bradbury Leads 'Long Beach Reads'

Led by the appearance of award-winning author Ray Bradbury, students and staff of local schools this week took part in activities of the fourth annual "Long Beach Reads One Book."

The event, which encourages residents throughout the city to read the same book, featured Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.

The legendary author appeared early this week at Long Beach City College, taking questions from Long Beach Unified School District students watching in 65 classrooms and interacting through a special website.

Students at Chavez Elementary school on Wednesday took part in Dictionary Day, where each third grade student received a dictionary. The students participated in a "Dig My Dictionary" contest to learn how dictionaries can help them achieve more as students, speakers and writers.

The Poly High School Orchestra performed music from the film of *Fahrenheit 451* prior to an evening public discussion of the importance of dissent and free speech in the governance of a free society, a central theme of the Bradbury classic.



State Distinguished School Finalists Named

Three schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are finalists for the prestigious California Distinguished School Award. Wilson Classical High School, Hill Classical Middle School and Hughes Middle School each advanced to the statewide nominee level, according to the California Department of Education.

Teams of educators will now visit the schools before determining whether the finalists will receive the top award.

Of the 245 middle schools eligible to apply for the award this year, 86 were selected as statewide finalists. Of 218 high schools eligible to apply, 100 were selected as finalists.

All three Long Beach finalists scored an impressive 7.9 out of 8 possible points on the application. Only schools that score between 7.5 and 8.0 can advance to the finalist stage. The state will announce the winners next month.

The California Distinguished School Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday,

May 20 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. To earn the award, schools compete in rigorous selection and screening conducted by the California Department of Education. Winning schools may apply for the National Blue Ribbon Award. Last year an unprecedented 11 LBUSD elementary schools won the California Distinguished School Award. Only Los Angeles Unified School District, at eight times the size of Long Beach, earned as many awards.

Winning schools must demonstrate high academic expectations for all students, achievement levels at and above state standards, strong leadership, competent and caring teachers focused on standards, and outstanding curriculum.

Statewide winners also must show exemplary family involvement and partnerships with the business community, comprehensive guidance and counseling services, ample support for students with a wide range of needs, and a safe learning environment that promotes citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness.



Cal Excellence Council Honors Emerson, Hill

Hill Classical Middle School and Emerson Parkside Academy will accept the California Prospector Award today from the California Council for Excellence. The two schools won the honor for effective use of Malcolm Baldrige continuous improvement strategies.

The non-profit California Council for Excellence helps private and public-sector organizations achieve world-class results through Baldrige principles. Baldrige provides a systematic process used by some of the most profitable businesses in the nation. It is based on leadership, strategic planning, stakeholder focus, measurement and analysis, staff focus, process management and results. Today's awards will be given at the Council's 11th annual conference in Riverside.

Emerson, a charter school, also earned a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education last week. The grant will allow Emerson to share its successful Baldrige implementation methods with nearby Cleveland

Elementary School. The latest grant submitted by Emerson's director, Cynthia Young, brings total grant funding at Emerson to \$650,000 in just three years.

"The recognition and awards are all due to the dedication, commitment and collaboration of the staff," Young said. "They are working together, using data to make instructional decisions, and that's why our school is making gains."

The Baldrige process is named after Malcolm Baldrige, who from 1981 to 1987 was U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Visit www.caexcellence.org for more information about the California Council for Excellence.

Marshall's the Model

Marshall Middle School was selected recently as a national demonstration school for the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) college preparatory system.

The elite demonstration schools were selected from more than 1,900 sites in 30 states and 15 foreign countries where the rigorous AVID system is used.

AVID schools offer a regularly scheduled elective that stresses writing, inquiry and collaboration. Students enroll in college preparatory classes and receive tutoring from college students. Teachers are trained to make college preparatory material accessible to all students.

Most AVID graduates enroll in college and remain enrolled two years later.

Coffee With Chris

The April 11 meeting of the Long Beach Unified Family Committee, also known as "Coffee With Chris," has been cancelled.

The May 16 meeting has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 24 in the Community Room of the Administration Building.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

Scholar Marathoners

Chapters of Students Run L.A. at California Academy of Mathematics and Science and Wilson Classical High School helped dozens of students complete the recent Los Angeles Marathon. Susan Carle was teacher leader at CAMS for a fifth year, though not running with the group for the first time. Nathan Rogers-Madsen led students at Wilson and completed the marathon in 8:09.

Marathon finishers, and their times, from SRLA CAMS are Federico Abeyta, 6.25; Darlene Aguilar, 6.27; Isaac Ahn, 7.39; Sheriah Altobar, 9.09; Adriene Apacible, 9.09; Nichole Aquino, 7.39; Ronnie Arenas, 3.43; Lisa Bobroskie, 5.51; Margaret Castaneda, 7.11; Moon Cho, 5.54; Quynn Dao, 6.48; Loismae De Villa, 7.16; Carlos Delgado, 4.10; Gabriela Diaz, 6.25; Marlene Diaz, 5.28; Chandana Edirisingle, 4.19; Paula Erez, 7.34; May Gamboa, 6.45; Randolph Garcia, 3.47; Llanet Gomez, 4.57; Teresa Gomez, 6.14; Kyle Horimoto, 3.47; Valaya Johnson, 6.25; Nino Las Pinas, 7.26; Olga Lopez, 5.51; Ivan Macias, 7.11; Jennifer Mapote, 7.34; Jay Marcos, 4.30; Lydiesther Martinez, 5.56; Marisol Mendez, 7.06; Dhyana Morris, 6.25; Dennis Nguyen, 6.17; Cinthya Osuna, 4.58; Kevin Pang, 4.17; Jessica Perez, 5.28; Daniel Pham, 5.51; Andre Phan, 6.54; Joshua Piñon, 5.33; Maria A. Ramirez, 6.36; Eduardo A. Rodriguez, 5.46; Arnold Ruiz, 5.11; Lara Saberon, 6.05; Cesar Salcedo, 4.42; Maysa Sangria, 6.45; Millie Seibold, 7.03; Sonia Soto, 6.47; Amber Spring, 6.47; and Nikki Sumait, 6.17.

Marathon finishers from SRLA Wilson are Alexis Saldana, Jefferson student, 7:11; and Monica Saldana, Wilson student, 7:11. Their mom, Denise Saldana, crossed the finish line with them at 7:11.

Long Beach Unified School District staff completing the marathon are Elizabeth Genovese, Lafayette, 5:29; and Vic Jarels, Poly, 7:00.

Transfer Requests

Teachers interested in a transfer for the 2005-06 school year must submit a transfer form on or before the Thursday, March 31 deadline.

Requests for transfer are valid for openings listed with the Certificated Personnel Office through the first seven student days of the following traditional school year.

Employees will be notified about the status of their transfer requests before the end of the 2004-05 school year. For information about transfers, call ext. 8257.

Yokkaichi Reminder

An informational meeting for LBUSD teachers interested in teaching in Yokkaichi, Japan, will be held 4 p.m. Monday, March 21 at the ABC Conference Rooms, Teacher Resource Center. For information, call the Elementary Office at ext. 8247.

Public Schools Week

The theme for this year's Public Schools Week, April 11-15, is "Public Schools: Lighting the Way for America's Future."

L.B. Chamber Raises Funds for Uniforms

A recent National Leaders Luncheon sponsored by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce at the Queen Mary raised \$5,450 dollars to assist needy students with school uniforms. The funds represent half of the luncheon proceeds, donated by the Chamber to the Long Beach Education Foundation. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who announced a \$100,000 federal contribution to the school district. The funding will help pay for teacher and principal training, expanded college preparatory offerings and other high school initiatives.

Dates to Remember

April	Keep America Beautiful Month Mathematics Education Month Labor History Week
1-7	International Children's Book Day
2	Daylight Savings Time Day
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
5	California Poppy Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "No Time To Waste!" (Environmental Conservation), Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
8	National Library Week
10-16	Public Schools Week
11-15	Open House—Middle School
12	Open House—High School
13	Cambodian New Year
13-15	Open House—Elementary School
14	Pan American Day
14	Public School Volunteer Week
17-23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
20	John Muir Day
21	Earth Day
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
22	Passover—First Days
24-25	Administrative Professionals Week
24-30	National TV-Turnoff Week
25-May 1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
26	Administrative Professionals Day
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
27	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
29	Passover-Concluding Days
30-May 1	

In Memoriam

Helen Harvey
former teacher
March 8, 2005

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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The Job Board

• MacArthur Elementary School has an opening for an 80 percent literacy specialist. Interested candidates must be knowledgeable of appropriate interventions for students who are not yet reading at grade level. The successful candidate may work with students in grades 1 to 4. Interested candidates should contact MacArthur principal Patricia Jernigan at pjernigan@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for cook-remote site and laborer.

Nurse of the Year

The Long Beach School Nurse Association is seeking nominations for School Nurse of the Year. Each year, one nurse is recognized for contributions to the health and well being of Long Beach Unified School District children.

Nomination forms may be requested from Barbara Wallace, RN, at ext. 5615. The deadline is Wednesday, April 6.

Administrative Jobs

Although the school district expects very few openings, applications are being accepted for the following positions that may become available for the 2005-06 school year:

• Administrative (requires a valid Administrative Credential)—high school co-principal, middle school principal, assistant principal (middle school, high school), elementary school principal, elementary school vice principal.

• Leadership (Administrative Credential not required)—program specialist, activities specialist (high school), administrative assistant.

Applicants from previous years must re-apply to be included on this year's eligibility list. The deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, April 15.

Application materials are available at all school and district offices or can be downloaded from the HRS website at TeachLongBeach.com. For information, call ext. 8257 or e-mail dnavarro@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

Head Start Opening

Head Start opened a new center recently at Whittier Elementary School, occupying a former kindergarten classroom.

Head Start furnished the classroom with instructional materials, furniture and equipment formerly located at the Long Beach Community College Head Start location. The program was moved from LBCC at the close of the 2003-04 school year due to the college's modernization project.

Renaissance 'Annie'

Students from Renaissance High School for the Arts will perform the musical comedy "Annie," winner of seven Tony Awards including best musical, at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., 7 p.m. Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26.

For ticket information, contact Ticketmaster at (213) 480-3232, (714) 740-2000 or www.ticketmaster.com.