



school bulletin

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

April 8, 2005

California's Best Brings History Alive

No one falls asleep in Ryan Baker's classes. They're too busy rebuilding the Alamo or fighting the Revolutionary War with muskets made of plastic pipe.

The award-winning eighth grade history teacher doesn't believe students should spend too much time memorizing or reciting dates and names.

"That's a very dull way to learn history," Baker said.

He prefers active group participation.

"I think that's what they remember," he said.



Baker

The Bancroft Middle School teacher is the new statewide winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History award. He will now represent California in competition for the national award. He accepted the DAR award at a recent ceremony in Santa Clara.

Baker's students videotape their reenactment of the King of England discussing the Stamp Act and the colonists' reaction. They march and sing "The Battle of New Orleans." They compose raps, poems and songs. They become Hamilton and Jefferson debating the merits of federalism. They love history.

District, County Seek Exemplary Teachers

Do you know an exemplary teacher? The Los Angeles County Office of Education would like your help identifying the 2005-06 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year.

From applications submitted to the district in July, three Long Beach Unified School District teachers of the year will be selected. Their applications will be forwarded to the county. Teachers selected by the county will compete for California Teacher of the Year and possibly National Teacher of the Year.

Eligible for Teacher of the Year nomination by the Superintendent's Office are pre-K through grade 12 teachers, library media teachers who teach with classroom teachers, adult school teachers who use the same curriculum as K-12 teachers, and instructors with administrative responsibilities if teaching is their primary responsibility.

An information meeting for potential nominees will be held Tuesday, April 19, from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room B at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St. Teachers will receive the application forms and timeline at this meeting. To reserve a place, call Fran Pfeiffer at ext. 2901.

Harvard Reports Poly, Jordan Beat the Odds

The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University this spring reported that Poly and Jordan high schools are "beating the odds." Both schools are graduating a significantly higher than expected percentage of students.

Poly ranked number one and Jordan ranked ninth in the Harvard graduation rate study. Only 15 California high schools made the list of exemplary high schools. The Harvard report examined high school enrollment data to verify which students were able to meet academic requirements and earn promotion from grade to grade.

"High promoting power" schools like Poly and Jordan were recognized for having a high percentage of students making a successful passage through high school. Both schools have superior graduation rates, according to the study. Both schools serve high percentages of minority and low-income students.

The Harvard study identified the top performing schools serving at least 25 percent African-American or Latino students. At least

40 percent of the students at these schools qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

"Kids (at Poly) for the most part feel connected to the school," said Poly co-principal Shawn Ashley. "When they feel connected, they keep coming, and that makes a world of difference."

Poly and Jordan were cited for defying the low graduation rates and high dropout rates often seen in high schools that serve minority students.

The average promoting power of the most successful high schools in California was at least 80 percent, compared to 60 percent or less for other high schools serving comparable student populations.

The Harvard study recommended that the state should set a floor in graduation rates for major racial groups, and urged it to provide rewards for schools that make substantial, steady progress toward that goal.

Successful high schools like Poly and Jordan are already proving that it can be done.

Top U.S. Coach To Salute Inspiring Students

Three-time national volleyball Coach of the Year Brian Gimmillaro this month will honor inspiring students for their character and courage to overcome challenges.

The Long Beach Education Foundation 2005 Most Inspiring Students Awards will be presented at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, April 20 to 96 exemplary students—one representing each school in the Long Beach Unified School District. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., with registration at 5 p.m.

Gimmillaro, CSULB coach and national award-winning coach of some of the world's best women's volleyball players, will serve as the keynote speaker at the ninth annual salute to beat-the-odds students.

"He's one of the greatest leaders Long Beach has ever had," said Mike Murray, president of the Long Beach Education Foundation's board of directors. "He's the only coach in the nation to have won national championships three times at the club, high school and NCAA Division I college levels, yet he considers his work as a teacher even more important than his accomplishments as a coach."

The coach has a lifetime winning percentage of .824 and since 1996 has posted a 218-22 (.908) record. He coached the first Division I volleyball team in the U.S. to finish the season undefeated. Several of his players have excelled on the U.S. Olympic team.

The theme for this year's event is "A Fairy

Tale Evening," featuring appearances by the Millikan Concert Choir, Shrek, Donkey, Princess Fiona and fairy tale characters.

For ticket reservations call the Long Beach Education Foundation at 997-8111. The donation is \$100.

Psychologist Goes Extra Mile to Help

Marcie Roussos, LBUSD school psychologist, was recognized as Outstanding School Psychologist for the south and east Los Angeles County region by the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP).

Roussos was recently honored for providing outstanding service to students, teachers, administrators, parents, community agencies and the profession.

Roussos effectively communicates with parents and provides them with support and encouragement. She looks for ways to assist students who have problems ranging from medical issues to special learning needs.

Roussos also helps parents reestablish ties with the district, and she helps coordinate programs and services for children who are returning to the district from psychiatric placements.

She spearheaded and is a key member of the LBUSD School-Based Mental Health Collaborative.



Gimmillaro



Roussos

Hi-Hill Cabin Posts

Hi-Hill Outdoor School is accepting applications for cabin counselor. Applicants must be high school seniors or older, enjoy mountain hiking in all kinds of weather, work with fifth graders, be positive role models and get along well with others. Weekday room and board are provided plus weekly round-trip transportation. The salary is approximately \$1,500 a month.

A \$2,362 AmeriCorps award is available to counselors considering careers in teaching who complete a year of service and training at Hi-Hill. This award may be used to pay student loans or future college tuition. High school career centers and the Hi-Hill Office have applications. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 29. For information, call 496-3775.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools were **Kevin Anderson**, Birney; **Maria Chavarria**, Harte; **Irish Flowers**, Robinson; **Armida Garcia**, Willard; **Minerva Monte**, Mann; **Phalline Nguon**, Whittier; and **Willie Wade**, Carver.

Darlene Martin, Nutrition Services assistant director, won a Certificate of Community Service from Long Beach Fire Department for serving as a member of the board for CPR Sunday, which awarded 2,153 certificates for CPR to participants in one day.

Gabby Mercado, eighth grade history department chair at Bancroft, was the only teacher to represent the western United States on the national committee that created and analyzed test questions for the new NAEP history exam. She worked in Washington D.C. as part of the committee that developed this national test, which will be administered in 2006.

Winners of the Long Beach Reads One Book essay contest are **Rosana Carranza**, Millikan; and **Anna Francesca Franco**, Tera Lim and **Katherine Truong**, Poly.

Los Angeles County winners in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Write-Off Competition are **Ariana Ortiz**, Jordan, 10th Grade Bronze Medal; and **Kathy Nguyen**, Lindbergh, Sixth Grade Gold Medal. The winners competed with thousands enrolled in AVID college prep classes.

Wilson science teacher **Greg Pepek** and Burnett second grade teacher **Nica Operchuck** have been selected by the Rotary Foundation to participate in a Group Study Exchange this summer in Russia.

In Memoriam

Rose Marie Marr
teacher, Poly
January 21, 2005

Jim Rezac
computer support specialist
March 24, 2005

Mary Margaret Clements
former cafeteria supervisor
March 27, 2005

Elizabeth Wilcox
former teacher
April 3, 2005

Nominate Classified Employee Heroes

Employees may submit nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 29. Now is the time to spotlight outstanding classified co-workers—the unsung heroes who deserve recognition for supporting good schools.

The 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 and school support or the business operations of the district.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible for this honor. The selection committee will not consider self-nominations. Only district employees may nominate a classified employee. Employees who have been nominated before may be nominated again, even if they were finalists in previous years.

Nomination forms are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us. Visit the Personnel Commission entry in the alphabetical index. Each site will receive a limited quantity of nomination forms. Completed nomination forms may be faxed to 983-1588 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists and the top winner will be announced at the Classified Employee Barbecue at the Teacher Resource Center on Friday, May 20. The barbecue is held each year with the help of donations from employees and generous community supporters. No district funds are used for the event. The award winner also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting this spring.

For more information, call 435-5708.

Seamless Praise

The Long Beach Unified School District was presented recently with the Family Life Award by Family Service of Long Beach for its valuable contribution of seamless education to the community.

Also honored were the district's partners in seamless education, Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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(562) 997-8000. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us

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Superintendent of Schools

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More Than Volcanoes

The 10th Annual Long Beach Unified School District Science Fair will be held at Cabrillo High School on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This popular annual event inspires and excites thousands of students about the possibilities of science. The district fair showcases the finest projects from each school.

Volunteer reviewers are needed to help evaluate student projects. No science expertise is required. To volunteer, contact Eric Brundin, Science Curriculum Office, at ext. 2964.

The Job Board

• Jordan High School is seeking English instructors to teach International Baccalaureate courses to juniors and seniors. IB, an internationally recognized honors program, exposes students to challenging curricula while promoting involvement in school and community. IB teachers assist students outside of class with exam tutoring, retreats and field trips. Contact IB coordinator Steve Rockenbach at srockenbach@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Marshall Middle School has an opening for a math intervention specialist to work with students in an extended math period or in a pull-out program targeting students in specific skill areas. To apply, contact Penny O'Toole, principal, at potoole@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• An eighth grade GATE science teacher position is open at Tincher Preparatory School. Contact Bill Vogel, principal, at ext. 4650, or wvogel@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Jackie Robinson Academy is seeking two Open Court literacy specialists (K-2, 3-5) to help classroom teachers implement the district's adopted reading instructional program. Contact Frank Gutierrez or Kelly Koga at ext. 5680 by April 22.

• Chavez Elementary School is seeking a Grade 4 literacy focus teacher who has used Open Court and is knowledgeable in SDAIE and intervention strategies for students reading below grade level. Contact Susan Rivard, principal, at srivard@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for credential services specialist, intermediate nutrition service worker, intermediate office assistant, intermediate office assistant-schools, Kids Club supervisor I, Kids Club supervisor II, Kids Club supervisor III and senior nutrition service worker.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Richard Coleman, plant supervisor I, Long Beach School for Adults;

Marvin Davis II, campus security officer, Jordan;

Phillip Dostalek, assistant maintenance director, Maintenance;

Jesus Figueroa, plant supervisor I, Willard;

Ronald Hoppe, maintenance director, Maintenance.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Quentin Wood	June 3	Cheryl Cornejo ext. 3204