



school bulletin

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

January 21, 2005

Mayor Lauds District As Efficient, Effective

Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill praised the Long Beach Unified School District during her recent State of the City address.

"We have schools we can be proud of," O'Neill said. "Our schools are noted as efficient, effective and highly amenable to working in partnership with the city. We are educating a very diverse student body of 96,000 at 95 schools, and 74,000 of those students are wearing school uniforms, which is noted throughout the country.

"The new downtown Cesar Chavez Elementary School that opened with city assistance includes joint use of multi-purpose facilities. It is an outstanding example of cooperation between city government and the school district – cooperation that is becoming more common and more necessary today in the face of shrinking budgets.

"National attention to our schools has occurred because of their success. The Broad Foundation last school year awarded the district the distinction of being the best urban school district in America."

O'Neill praised Seamless Education partnerships among local schools, colleges and universities. She also described the city's 12 Library Family Learning Centers as a successful partnership with schools to provide computer and homework assistance to 34,000 students each year.

State Budget Crisis Requires Local Cuts

A plan to help balance the Long Beach Unified School District's budget was approved recently by the Board of Education. Due to the state budget crisis, the plan includes a reduction of \$20.9 million for the remainder of this year and next.

"The school district needs to make these cuts to remain fiscally strong," said Kim Stallings, chief business and financial officer.

The budget plan includes the elimination of some full-time positions, though many of the positions are vacant or were already scheduled to become vacant. In other cases, employees may move to other positions in the school district. The affected positions include some clerical and support workers, counselors, psychologists and certificated managers. Decisions on job shifts hinge upon the number of retirements and other factors. In approving the reductions, board members said the school district would work diligently to avoid layoffs.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger presented his proposed state budget earlier this month. His proposed budget is the first step in a lengthy process of revisions in Sacramento.

School districts statewide have seen cost increases in employee health care and workers' (Continued on back page)



WORLD RENOWNED -- The Poly High School Jazz Ensemble performed recently before jazz legends at the most prestigious professional jazz conference in the world, the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference in Long Beach. On trombones, from left, are Drew Pedersen, Daniel Fremgen, Isaac Kaplan, Martin Blagaich and Jessica Smith. On bass guitar is Sean Ducar.



Schools Raise Thousands for Tsunami Relief

The recent devastating tsunami in Asia has moved students and staff at schools throughout the Long Beach Unified School District to raise funds for disaster relief.

These schools' ongoing efforts already have raised nearly \$20,000.

Addams—Students are conducting a Dollar Drive for the tsunami relief fund, with donations to be given to the Red Cross.

Bancroft—Proceeds from the Valentine's Day candy sale and an In-N-Out Burger Lunch will be used to aid tsunami victims.

Lunchtime collections are also being made.

Barton—A schoolwide penny drive has earned \$1,100 for tsunami victims.

Bixby—A fundraiser already planned for January and February, intended to raise funds for field trips and school programs, will instead send half of the proceeds to the

tsunami victims.

Burcham—Collection of pocket change has already amounted to more than \$200 and will continue through the month, to be forwarded to UNICEF.

Burrroughs—Funds raised by the student council will be sent to Fox Channel 11 News, as Fox has committed to matching any funds raised for tsunami relief.

Carver—The Dimes for Disaster fundraiser has collected more than \$1,500 from students, staff and families.

Chavez—The Pennies for Earthquake Survivors drive will continue through the end of the month. Money will be donated to UNICEF.

Cleveland—Students, staff, and parents are collecting used paperback and hardback books (Continued on back page)

Ball Named State Government Affairs Director

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has appointed Andrea Ball as his new director of Government Affairs.

Ball currently serves as director of the Office of Government Relations for the Long Beach Unified School District, where she advocates on legislative, budget and policy issues before the state Legislature, executive branch offices, state boards and commissions, and federal agencies.



Ball

"I'm looking forward to working with the Legislature on Superintendent O'Connell's

important priorities for improving California's schools," Ball said. "It's an honor to work on behalf of all of California's students."

Ball previously worked as executive director for United Friends of the Children's Bridges to Independence, a nonprofit organization that provides transitional housing and supportive services to emancipated foster youth. Before that, she served as a volunteer in the White House Office of Public Liaison and worked as a nonprofit advocacy attorney with the Alliance for Justice from 1994 to 1996. She was a judicial law clerk for the United States District Court, Northern District of California, from 1991 to 1993.

Ball will begin her new position at the California Department of Education on February 1.

• Budget

(Continued from front page)
compensation for the past few years. These cost increases have outpaced relatively small increases in state funding.

The school district's First Interim Report in December showed that LBUSD would have to cut at least \$40 million over the next two and a half years. In all, the latest cost-savings plan saves \$27 million in unrestricted funds over this year and next by including a \$7 million funding shift from unrestricted funds to categorical funds.

Ongoing cost-savings steps include curtailed hourly, overtime and additional pay assignments, elimination of travel expenses that use unrestricted funds, a freeze on newly unfilled positions, deferred equipment purchases and other measures.

The latest reductions in LBUSD include no plans to issue layoff notices to teachers, reflecting an effort to keep cuts as far away from classroom instruction as possible. This approach follows the recommendations of the school district's broad-based budget committee that met last year. The school district will resume budget committee meetings this spring to allow further input from employee groups and others regarding the budget.

With California's school funding ranking among the lowest in the nation, other school districts in the state face serious budget problems. The Fresno school board recently declared its school district would not meet its financial obligations for at least the next two years. In recent years, school districts statewide have issued thousands of layoff notices to teachers, support staff and administrators. This year, many California school districts have proposed further job cuts, school closures, increased class sizes and other cost-cutting measures.

Active Retirement

Teacher, counselor and school psychologist Maggie Kline retired two months ago, thinking she could rest and relax. Then the tsunami hit, and this week Kline flew to Thailand to help.

Because she specializes in healing and preventing trauma, she was recruited to lead a group of 10 mental health and medical workers to relieve the suffering of tsunami survivors.

She and her team will train trauma healers at Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok before returning in March.

In Memoriam

Dale Christensen
former locksmith
October 23, 2004

Linda Nishimoto
teacher, Harte
December 22, 2004

Tom Rasmussen
teacher, Holmes
January 15, 2005

Kenneth Delene
former principal
January 16, 2005

Education Celebration

Education Celebration will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Cabrillo High School Main Gymnasium, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

Combining the features of an exposition and a community festival, Education Celebration is a major draw to the public, attracting thousands of people each year. Families have the opportunity to visit the booths of every elementary and K-8 school in the district.

Free buses will depart for the Education Celebration from Lakewood High School, 8:30 a.m.; Jordan, 8:45 and 9:45 a.m.; Millikan, 8:25 a.m.; Wilson, 8:35 a.m.; and Poly, 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. All return buses depart Cabrillo at noon.

Dates to Remember

February

	Black History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
2	School to Career Groundhog Job Shadow Day 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Thomas Edison," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
7-11	National School Counseling Week
8-March 26	Lent
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
9	Chinese New Year
9	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
10	Islamic New Year
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "President's Day" (America's Special Days), Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Klan—A Legacy of Hate in America" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
14	Lincoln Day
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Hiding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
21	Washington Day
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Jackie Robinson Story" (Black American Day), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8

"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Tsunami

(Continued from front page)
which will be sold in early February. Proceeds will be sent to the Red Cross.

Cubberley—Students are holding a coin drive for the tsunami victims through the end of the month.

Gompers—Parents and students have donated more than \$1,500. Funds were raised with the promise that school staff would match that amount.

Hamilton—Sixth grade students, already studying about tsunamis in science classes, started a fundraiser with proceeds to be donated to the Red Cross.

Hill—Students raised more than \$1,800 with funds donated to UNICEF.

Hoover—Advisory teachers are collecting donations for the school's Hoover is Changing the World tsunami relief effort.

Jefferson—Students, faculty and staff committed to raising at least \$500 to help support the tsunami victims.

Jordan—A new humanitarian club is organizing a Dollar Day, with every student and staff member asked to give one dollar.

Lakewood—Students are sponsoring a tsunami relief coin drive through this week.

Longfellow—Student council efforts have exceeded \$2,300, with the money to be donated to the Red Cross.

Los Cerritos—Fundraising to assist tsunami victims continues through January.

MacArthur—Student council and PTA appealed to families. The collection drive continues through this week.

Madison—A drive to support Red Cross efforts will be conducted through early February.

Marshall—A schoolwide boys vs. girls penny competition is raising funds for the Red Cross.

McKinley—Student council members have organized an after-school ice cream sale to raise funds.

Millikan—Collections are being accepted in classrooms and offices for an ongoing drive to benefit the Red Cross.

Muir—The school's disaster relief drive, run by the student council, will benefit UNICEF efforts.

Poly—Students collected more than \$1,500 in less than an hour on the first day of their drive last week. JROTC members also volunteered at Operation USA helping to label items sent to the afflicted area.

Renaissance—A fundraiser and student council cookie sale will generate relief funds.

Riley—A Dollar Drive to be held next week will benefit the Red Cross.

Signal Hill—The student council's drive for UNICEF will conclude with a schoolwide assembly to announce the total.

Stanford—The student council is asking for a dollar donation per pupil to raise at least \$1,400 from pupils, and the same from staff members, for another \$100 totaling a projected donation of \$1,500.

Stephens—The student council collected funds for the Red Cross.

Tincher—The school community has donated nearly \$3,500 dollars toward Red Cross efforts.

Twain—Students, staff and families, led by the student council, raised \$3,500 for UNICEF.

Willard—A collection to benefit Red Cross relief efforts has already netted well over \$800 with donations still coming in.

Wilson—Students are collecting funds to benefit Red Cross and UNICEF efforts.