



school bulletin

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

September 9, 2005

Job Turnover Down; Teacher Retention Up

The job turnover of experienced teachers leaving the district to take positions in other school districts has declined to the lowest rate in four years—only 89 teachers. In contrast, far more teachers from other school districts—1,552 experienced teachers—applied to teach here in the last year. That's a ratio of more than 17 experienced teacher applicants for every experienced teacher vacancy.

Why are hundreds of experienced teachers seeking employment here?

The top reasons given by the applicants themselves attest to the quality of the Long Beach Unified School District. Approximately eight out of 10 teacher applicants mentioned one or more of these factors in their decision to apply here:

- 78 percent cited competitive teacher salaries.
- 80 percent indicated the district's strong academic focus was an important factor in seeking to teach here.
- 77 percent said the district's excellent staff development opportunities for teachers were attractive.
- 79 percent indicated the district's support for newly hired teachers was desirable.

"We're encouraged that so many excellent, experienced teachers want to work here," said Ruth Ashley, assistant superintendent of Human Resource Services. "We're also pleased by the reasons teachers give for applying to teach here. They know this is an excellent place to teach."

Last year the district hired 386 teachers; 44 percent of them were experienced teachers. This year only 199 new teachers were hired. Forty-nine percent of these new hires are experienced teachers. Ninety-seven of the 199 have more than a year of teaching experience.

The school district is California's third largest and has more than 5,000 teachers.

AP Tops State, Nation

Performance by Long Beach Unified School District students on Advanced Placement exams is now higher than state, national and international averages in nine subject areas: calculus, European history, music theory, physics B, physics C (mechanics), Spanish language, Spanish literature, statistics and world history.

Last school year LBUSD students took nearly 4,800 Advanced Placement (AP) exams, an increase of about 1,300 over the previous year. This fall, local students will fill an estimated 6,000 seats in AP courses—an increase of more than 3,000 during the past two years. These challenging courses help students earn college credit while still in high school and give them a competitive edge, saving their parents thousands of dollars in college tuition.

Student Achievement Shows Strong Gains

State test results for 2005 report the Long Beach Unified School District exceeded both the academic growth of Los Angeles County and the State of California. According to the California Department of Education, the school district's overall Academic Performance Index (API) showed LBUSD entering the milestone "700 Club" by increasing 27 points over last year in traditional calendar schools. In comparison, L.A. County schools increased 19 points, and statewide schools increased 20 points. Countywide the average API is 693.

The statewide average is 709. Long Beach's average is 721.

The state report also showed Long Beach Unified School District meeting national Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. More students here have become proficient in English and math. This achievement was attained by all ethnic subgroups and for socio-economically-disadvantaged students.

This is no small accomplishment. Long Beach is the most diverse large city in the
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Fall Brings New Faces to School Campuses

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District has approved the hiring, promotion and reassignment of 56 key administrators for the upcoming school year.

Promoted to director at School for Adults was Fitzgerald Jones. He was School for Adults principal. Rosi Pedersen, School for Adults program administrator, was assistant principal, School for Adults.

Seven principal promotions included Juan Gutierrez, Bixby, who was vice principal at Garfield; Jackie Myers, Holmes, was assistant director, CDC; Terri Rennard, Butler, was assistant principal, Cabrillo; Kathleen Cruz, Los Cerritos, was assistant principal, Stanford; Victor Jarels, Hi-Hill, was assistant principal, Poly; Joe Pistoia, co-principal at Wilson, was principal, Human Resource Services; and Don Keller, co-principal at Millikan, was principal, Stanford.

Reassigned principals include LaShell Diggs, from Butler to Burcham; Sherryl Johnson, from Holmes to Marshall; Donna McKeehan, from Bixby to Garfield; Penny

O'Toole, from Marshall to Bancroft; Deborah Stark, from Bancroft to Washington; Tom Huff, from Los Cerritos to Rogers; and Connie Jensen, from Rogers to Hamilton. Julie Nyssen, program administrator in Special Projects, was named principal at Alvarado. Karen Brinkman, co-principal at Millikan, was named program administrator, Human Resource Services.

Promoted to assistant principal were Jack Sokoloff, Jefferson, was program specialist, Jefferson; Veronica Coleman, Lindbergh, was acting assistant principal, Jordan; Jesse Church IV, Poly, was teacher, Reid; Guillermo Jimenez, Millikan, was teacher, Millikan; Audra Pittman, Wilson, was teacher, Jordan; Julie Campbell-Fouch, Marshall, was teacher, Stanford; and Stephanie Jones, Hudson, was program facilitator, Bixby.

Assigned as assistant principal were Mark Andreatta, from vice principal, Butler, to Bancroft; Linda Bueno-Alahwal, from administrative assistant, Human Resource Services,
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Cruz



Gutierrez



Jarels



Jones



Keller



Myers



Pedersen



Pistoia



Rennard



Seki

• Achievement

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United States, with more than 46 languages spoken at home by local students. Local schools continue to show strong academic growth despite these tremendous challenges and the fact that the state budget crisis has forced more than \$80 million in cuts from the local school district budget over the past four years. The school district has kept away from the classroom any cuts needed to balance the budget.

The percent of local students in grades two through eight who are proficient increased an average of 10 points in English and 8.5 points in math on the most recent California Standards Tests.

Also increasing are the numbers of students passing the new California High School Exit Exam. Approximately 82 percent of local students in the high school class of 2006 have already passed the exam's English section, while 80 percent have passed math. High school seniors will have two more chances to pass before this June's deadline.

The school district's continued achievement gains can be attributed to intensive efforts to provide additional help to any students who are struggling to meet California's new academic standards—some of the most challenging in the nation.

The goal of all California schools is to achieve an Academic Performance Index (API) score of 800. Two years ago, schools in the Long Beach Unified School District had an average API score of 694. Last year it jumped to 721. This year another significant increase is expected. These numbers may be revised slightly once the school district receives data for its year-round schools in the coming days.

Long Beach Unified School District this year had only three of its 91 schools identified as at-risk schools, an amazing feat for a school district that serves the most diverse large city in the U.S. with the sixth highest poverty rate among major U.S. cities. No large school district in California had fewer schools identified as "at risk" Program Improvement schools in 2005. Of California's 10 largest school systems, only Garden Grove, a national Broad Prize winner like Long Beach, had a lower percentage of Program Improvement schools.

Not only does Long Beach have very few at-risk schools, it has highly successful schools. Based on state test results, approximately 90 percent of schools here increased their Academic Performance Index, up from 80 percent a year earlier.

Almost 85 percent of schools in the district met or exceeded their state test growth targets—one of the best records among urban school districts.

In Memoriam

Shirley Gierman
teacher, Twain
May 19, 2005

Kathy Harveston
senior office assistant, Research
July 1, 2005

Gerald Simms
former teacher
August 20, 2005

Dates to Remember

September

| | |
|------------|--|
| | Library Card Sign-Up Month |
| 9 | Admission Day |
| 9 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 11 | Grandparents' Day |
| 11 | Patriot Day |
| 13 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Getting to School the Safe Way," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 15-Oct. 15 | Hispanic Heritage Month |
| 15-16 | Mexican Independence Days |
| 15 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8 |
| 16 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Follow Instructions," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 17 | Citizenship Day |
| 17-23 | Constitution Week |
| 20 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8 |
| 21 | International Day of Peace |
| 21 | Back to School Night—Elementary School |
| 21 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 11:00, 2:00— "Native American Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 22 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 23 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: A Lunchroom Goes Bananas," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 27 | Back to School Night—Middle School |
| 27 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Staying Out of Trouble with Your Friends (Duffy's Story)," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8 |
| 28 | Back to School Night—High School |
| 28 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Pocahontas," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 29 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8 |

The Job Board

• The Transitional Opportunity Program at Tucker (TOPs) is seeking a teacher to support K-3 students experiencing behavioral difficulties and to teach proven strategies that will help them achieve social and academic success. A strong parent component contributes to this program. For information, call Christi Granado, principal, at ext. 6645.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for Head Start family services liaison, health assistant-charter schools, library/media assistant, library/media center assistant and supervising food production equipment technician.

Bowlers Organize

The organizational meeting of the Teachers Bowling League will be held at Cal Bowl in Lakewood on Wednesday, September 28 at 4 p.m. League play starts Wednesday, October 5. Any school employee may participate. For information, contact Jim Clark at (562) 423-7839, or Jean Nama at (714) 827-7818.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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• Promotions

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to Washington; Adrienne Matte, from Washington to Stanford; Merrie Lyn Shickler, from administrative assistant, Special Education, to Poly; Sophia Griffith, Rogers, was assistant principal, Franklin; Diane Prince, Franklin, was assistant principal, Hamilton; Stewart Douglas, Hamilton, was assistant principal, Rogers; Shivaun Williams, Stephens, was vice principal, King; and Heidi Dalton-Sklarz, Stanford, was assistant principal, Marshall. Gail Brooks, who served as assistant principal/counselor at Stanford, is now assistant principal, Stanford.

Promoted to vice principal were Jesus Vazquez, Garfield, was teacher, Edison; and Brian Moskovitz, Sutter, was teacher, King. Assigned as vice principal were Lawrence Clark, Jr. from assistant principal, Lindbergh, to Butler; Carol Donahue, from Willard to Willard/Stevenson; Linda Fletcher, from Muir to Grant; Matthew Hammond, from Signal Hill/Stevenson to King; Stacy Sanchez, from MacArthur/OCIPD to OCIPD/Reading First; and Wilma Ferguson, from vice principal, Barton, to Edison.

Wayne Herbst, promoted to activities specialist at Avalon, was a teacher at Avalon. Gayle Mashburn, promoted to head counselor at Wilson, was a counselor at Wilson.

Todd Irving was named program administrator, Jordan; he was program administrator, Reid. Joel Ward was named activities specialist at Cabrillo; he was program specialist, ROP.

Pamela Seki earned promotion to program administrator, PALMS; she was assistant director, PALMS.

Those reassigned to central office positions were Jill Baker, program administrator for principal training, was principal, Garfield; Kathleen Grubb, assistant director, Multi-media/Special Education, was assistant director, Multimedia; Bob Hedges, program administrator, Special Education/OCIPD, was program administrator, OCIPD; Barbara Powell, program administrator, Special Education, was program administrator, International Student Registration; Sandra Rogers, curriculum leader grades 6-8 literacy consultant, OCIPD, was consultant, OCIPD; Lauren Shaw, director, CDC/Baldrige, was director, Baldrige; Myrna Almas, program specialist, OCIPD/Human Resource Services, was program specialist, OCIPD; and Jackie Barnett, program administrator, CDC/Community Day School, was principal, Alvarado.

Retirement Event

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Honoree | Date | Contact |
| Myrtle Jones | Oct. 1 | Ruthie Jones (310) 603-9769 |

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Heather Bigelow, credential services specialist, HRS;

Araceli Carrola, Head Start instructional aide, Head Start;

Harley Sayres, Kids Club lead assistant, Bixby;

Alex Trusler, network support specialist, Information Services;

Leslie Widdup, office assistant, Tincher.