



school bulletin

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

November 4, 2005

Lakewood Wins State Gold Standard Award

Lakewood High School was named one of 10 statewide winners of the Gold Standard Award given this week by California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE).

CBEE was founded in 1999 by major corporations and business organizations to represent the business community in state education policy making. The organization's president, James S. Lanich, described Lakewood as "uniquely successful." His council's members include the California Taxpayers' Association, California Business Roundtable, California Chamber of Commerce, The Boeing Company, Bank of America, IBM Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, Intel Corporation and others.

Business experts from these organizations
(Continued on back page)

Lindbergh Named School on the Move

The state's GEAR UP college readiness program recognized Lindbergh Middle School recently with a prestigious School on the Move award. Lindbergh was one of only four schools in GEAR UP's southern region, and one of only eight schools statewide, to be honored for its exemplary practices.

The school's principal and staff shared their success stories at GEAR UP's southern regional conference in Ontario.

State GEAR UP grants pay for teacher training, parent outreach and scholarships to help under-represented populations gain admission to college. To earn the School on the Move honor, schools must demonstrate that they have developed a college-going culture by
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API Scores Up Again

Recent numbers from the state show 86 percent of schools in the Long Beach Unified School District achieved growth on the state Academic Performance Index, outpacing the statewide rate of 84 percent.

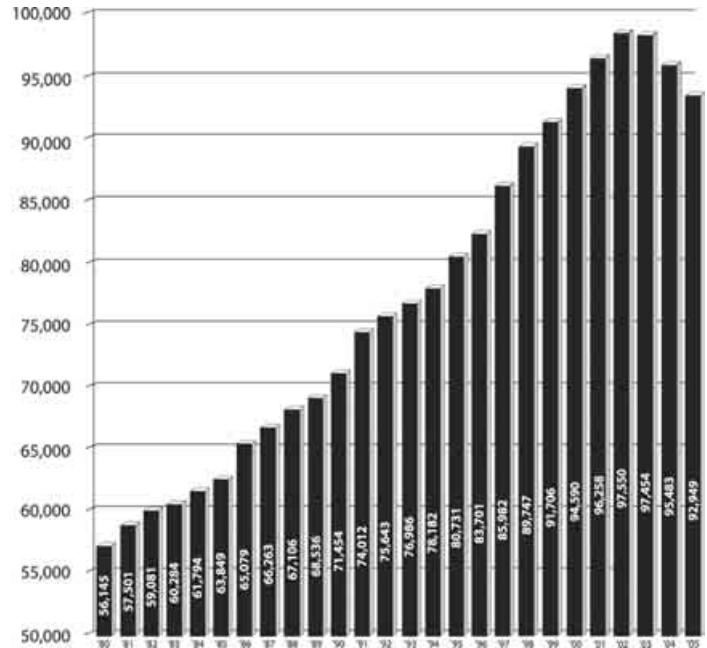
The numbers show significant improvement over last year, when 78 percent of local schools and 68 percent of schools statewide achieved growth.

This year 61 percent of schools in the district met all of their targets for ethnic and socioeconomic groups of students, up from 52 percent last year, according to the California Department of Education.

The school district improved its overall Academic Performance Index by 19 points to 713, exceeding both the county and state API. The goal of all California schools is to achieve an API score of 800.

DOWNTURN—

After years of steady increases, enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District has declined significantly for two consecutive years. This fall, enrollment dropped by 2,534 students. Local elementary schools reported the greatest enrollment loss – down 1,731 students. Middle school enrollment dropped by 618 students, while high schools declined by 59 students. Charter and special schools also saw decreases. Enrollment declines here and in other school districts mean less school funding.



Lower Enrollment Means Loss of \$20 Million

Student enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District declined this fall to 92,949 students, down 2,534 students from the previous year. Enrollment is now lower than it was five years ago, according to official numbers reported to the state every October.

This year's enrollment decline follows a decrease of 1,554 students last year. Together, the two consecutive years of significant declines mean the loss of more than \$20 million in state Average Daily Attendance funding each year for LBUSD.

The declines in enrollment come after more than two decades of steady increases in enrollment here in California's third largest school district. Many school districts in California recently have reported significant enrollment declines.

Elementary school enrollment here decreased 1,731 students this year in kindergarten through fifth grade. Middle schools lost 618 students in sixth through eighth grades. High schools lost 59 students.

As a result of lower total enrollment here, the Long Beach Unified School District has

alleviated overcrowding in elementary schools, which have been able to offer reduced class sizes in fourth and fifth grades, and all-day kindergarten at many schools.

The largest one-year decreases in Long Beach schools this fall occurred in kindergarten and fourth grades, both of which declined by about 6 percent. By comparison, overall enrollment declined about 2.7 percent from last year's 95,483 students. Until elementary enrollment bottoms out, districtwide enrollment may continue to decrease. Contributing to the school enrollment change is the fact that young families with children are being priced out of the Southern California housing market. Some are buying more affordable homes elsewhere.

National Scholars

Fifteen Long Beach Unified School District students were recently honored in the 2005-06 National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Students were selected based on outstanding grade point average and scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

Earning "Scholar" designation are Roxana Cortes, Ulisses Covarrubias, Ricardo Leyva and Alissa Sasayama, CAMS; Garrett Alfstad, Hector Benavides and Susan Rebellon, Poly; Jaqueline Aranda and Deylin Thrift-Viveros, Millikan; and Valerie Arechiga, Dahlia Grossman-Heinze, Kelsey Marrojo and Melanie Rhoads, Wilson.

Earning "Honorable Mention" are Alysa Campos and Desi Salgado, CAMS.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 16 in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

• Lindbergh

(Continued from front page)

focusing on: family, neighborhood and school support; intensive academic and college-going support; rigorous academic curriculum; high quality teaching; and multicultural college-going identity.

Lindbergh's presenters at the recent conference were principal Avery Hall, math and BTSA coach Peggy Gutierrez, and language arts teachers Kenneth Zavala, Abby Pappenfus and Ronald Yearwood.

"The efforts and talent at Lindbergh are just remarkable," said Frank Holmes, regional coordinator for California GEAR UP. He nominated Lindbergh for the honor.

"The enthusiasm of the principal, Dr. Hall, and the entire staff is just amazing," said Holmes, a college readiness expert and 37-year veteran educator. "I've been around a long time, and I have the utmost respect for Dr. Hall. It's important for the staff at Lindbergh to really know and clearly understand that they are doing exceptional work."

Newspapers in Class

CSULB Extension and the Press-Telegram are offering "Teaching Critical Thinking Skills with the Newspaper," a one-unit upper division class on Saturday, November 5.

The workshop for educators includes a class set of newspapers delivered to your school once a week for 10 weeks.

The 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. workshop provides a continental breakfast, tour, lunch and all teaching materials.

The course is \$114 for credit and \$49 for non-credit. For information, call Gayle Knapp at the Press-Telegram, 499-1445.

The Job Board

Chavez Elementary School seeks a 40 percent reading specialist to tutor small groups of first and second grade students during the school day. Experience with primary students, as a Reading Recovery, literacy specialist or classroom teacher is necessary. Call Susan Rivard, principal, at ext. 7937.

Parent Leadership

Parents of students with disabilities will find valuable information at the Parent Leadership Conference Saturday, November 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hill Middle School, 1100 Iroquois Ave.

Eight different sessions, such as "Navigating the IEP Process," "Parents Helping Parents," and "Strategies for Teaching Social Skills" will be offered to help parents assist their students in making the most of educational opportunities in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Presenters will include parents, representatives of community agencies and LBUSD special education leaders. Interpreters for Spanish, Khmer and sign will be provided, along with snacks and free child care. All parents will be entered in a raffle for chances to win books and supplies for their children.

The conference is sponsored in part by the Boeing Company. For information, call ext. 8643.

LBUSD Introduces Revamped Mission

The Long Beach Unified School District's revamped mission is "to support the personal and intellectual success of every student every day." The leaner language comes from the school district's Strategic Planning Committee.

Employees recently received a copy of the new mission, vision, and shared values and beliefs with their paycheck stubs. This document is the first portion of the district's plan.

Each Board of Education member, members of the executive staff, and leaders from employee groups have participated in interviews which asked them to name the major challenges and important priorities for the district. Their responses, along with input from the planning committee, will determine draft strategic themes and objectives. The objectives will be refined with input from district employees, parent groups, and student groups. Planning should be completed by April 2006.

Revised Mission and Vision

Mission

To support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day.

Vision

Every student a responsible, productive citizen in a competitive world.

Shared Values and Beliefs

- *Success of All Students*
- *High Expectations*
- *Respect and Integrity*
- *Teamwork*
- *Safety*
- *Effectiveness and Efficiency*
- *Continuous Improvement*

Cancer-Fighting Quilt

The "Cookie Quilters," a group of generous Nutrition Services employees, recently created and donated a beautiful hand-made quilt to help in the fight against breast cancer. It will be sold in a November charitable auction in Sacramento.

To view the quilt, go to www.suttermedical-center.org/quiltauction. The group's creation, "Flowers from the Heart," is on page 12.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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• Lakewood

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sorted through publicly available data to find high schools that fit their criteria. They conducted site interviews and selected 10 schools statewide that demonstrated continuous success in preparing students for college, exhibiting high academic performance in reading and math, and reducing achievement gaps among ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Lakewood staff and students are accepting the award this week during a luncheon at the Beverly Hills Four Seasons Hotel.

CBEE also provides one to two \$5,000 scholarships to winning schools so their students may pursue studies in math and science at a college or university.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment in employee health and welfare plans has been moved back one week to Monday, November 7 through Wednesday, November 30. Ceridian Benefits Services, Inc. will administer the open enrollment. Ceridian is the contact point for health benefit matters.

Employees and retirees may enroll using the Ceridian website at www.benefit enroll.com starting November 7 or by using telephone interactive voice response (IVR) at (800) 582-6764. No paper enrollment will be accepted.

Employees are receiving a mailer on how to enroll on the Ceridian website. Meanwhile, health plan options are explained at www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us under Risk Management in the alphabetical index. From the Risk Management page, click on Employee Benefits, then 2006 Health Benefits Insurance Booklets.

Aladdin Tickets

Long Beach Renaissance High School for the Arts will present Disney's musical "Aladdin" November 17-19 at 7 p.m. in the Renaissance Theatre. For ticket information, call ext. 7109.

College Workshops

Workshops on college readiness and the California High School Exit Exam will be offered to middle and high school students and parents from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 19 at Cabrillo High School.

The Long Beach Unified School District and the non-profit Academic Up-Rise, Inc. are presenting the fourth annual Educational Symposium, where college and university representatives also will be available to talk with students and parents. For information, contact Eddie Pierson of Academic Up-Rise at (562) 208-3528.

In Memoriam

Judy Hummer
former teacher
October 11, 2005

Nancy Green
former foreign language curriculum leader
October 21, 2005