



# school bulletin

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

August 12, 2005



**RUSSIAN CAMPERS**—Burnett third grade teacher Nica Operchuck and Wilson science teacher Greg Pepek spent a month this summer in Russia. They were selected as members of the first Rotary International Group Study Exchange education team to visit schools and universities in the former Soviet Union. They enjoyed attending a summer camp with hundreds of children from Ivanovo, a city famous for its textile industry. They selected this girl's floral hairdo as one of the winners at camp.

## Student Attendance Ranks Highest in 25 Years

Students in the Long Beach Unified School District have attained record high attendance, missing the fewest days of school last year in a quarter-century comparison. Record-breaking attendance rates were achieved by students here at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school.

The highest percentage of actual attendance, surprisingly, was at the middle school

level. For decades, elementary schools have led the district with the highest attendance rates, increasing from 92.6 percent in 1980 to 95.7 percent last year.

Middle schools' actual attendance edged past elementary schools for the first time last year—increasing from 89.9 percent in 1980 to 96 percent in 2004—the greatest gain of all levels. High school students' actual attendance grew from 91.3 percent in 1980 to 95.5 percent last year.

After 1994-95, the first year of required districtwide K-8 school uniforms, actual attendance rates here have increased significantly. Prior to that year, attendance rates had fluctuated below the current high rates.

The two high schools with student uniforms—Millikan and Wilson—also reported 96 percent actual attendance last year, above the districtwide rate for high schools.

**Percent of Actual Student Attendance Long Beach Unified School District**

Year	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
1980-81	92.6	89.9	91.3
1981-82	93.2	91.1	90.7
1982-83	93.3	91.4	90.8
1983-84	93.7	92.2	93.1
1984-85	93.8	91.9	92.5
1985-86	94.1	91.8	92.1
1986-87	94.1	91.6	91.6
1987-88	93.4	90.9	91.0
1988-89	93.1	90.5	91.2
1989-90	93.5	91.1	91.7
1990-91	93.8	92.2	90.4
1991-92	93.7	92.6	91.0
1992-93	93.8	92.8	92.5
1993-94	93.8	93.3	92.4
1994-95	93.7	93.3	90.8
1995-96	94.5	94.3	91.5
1996-97	94.7	94.6	93.3
1997-98	94.8	94.5	93.8
1998-99	95.2	95.3	94.5
1999-2000	95.3	95.2	93.9
2000-01	95.3	95.0	93.2
2001-02	95.6	95.2	92.6
2002-03	95.7	95.7	94.6
2003-04	95.7	96.0	95.5

## Donors Save Little Red Schoolhouse

Two Harbors Elementary School, also known as the little red schoolhouse on Catalina Island, has earned a reprieve. It will keep its doors open, thanks to the generosity of island residents, the boating community, and others like the mysterious Fullerton Yacht Club who responded to the urgent call for financial help.

During the one-room school's 17-year  
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## More Construction, Modernization Completed

The first major renovation of Lakewood High School has been completed in time for the new school year, and a new gymnasium at Colin Powell Academy opened its doors this summer. Major renovation continues at Poly High School, while construction has begun on a new school at the former Dooley's Hardware at Long Beach Boulevard and Del Amo Street.

The improvements and new facilities are paid for by Measure A school bonds approved in 1999 by local voters along with state matching funds. The projects are funded separately from the school district's operating budget.

The \$16 million Lakewood renovation includes new floor tiles, lighting, plumbing, painting, electrical upgrades and other improvements throughout the school. Lakewood High School had not been renovated since it opened nearly a half century ago. A similar major renovation is now underway and scheduled for completion at Poly High School by fall of 2006.

The new \$3.8 million gym just opened at Powell Academy offers 16,600 square feet and

contains a coaches' office, locker rooms and a music room, which was constructed to replace a portable building where the music program was previously held.

Powell opened with no gym in fall 1999. The North Long Beach school's innovative two-story modular construction allowed workers to build the school in only eight months. The school was one of only 12 nationwide to receive the Schools as Centers of Community Recognized Value Award for adherence to stringent principles adopted by the U.S. Department of Education, the American Institute of Architects and the Council for Educational Facilities Planners International.

At the Dooley's site, known by the landmark hardware store that occupied the parcel for many years, a 1,200-student elementary school has begun construction and is scheduled for completion in November 2006. Students from nearby Sutter Elementary School will attend the new K-5 school at the Dooley's location, allowing Sutter to be converted to a middle school accommodating grades 6-8.



**21ST CENTURY GYM**—This spacious, attractive new \$3.8 million gymnasium opened this summer at Powell Academy. It contains a coaches' room, locker room and even a music room.

## 1,400 Students To Attend AP Summer Bridge

Hundreds of students new to Advanced Placement courses this upcoming school year are getting a running start on success in these rigorous classes.

The AP Summer Bridge workshops at Long Beach Unified School District high schools will help students identify and strengthen the skills they need to complete and benefit from these courses. More than 1,400 students are expected to participate, most of them in August. Last year, LBUSD students took nearly 4,800 AP exams, an increase of about 1,300 over the previous year. This fall, students will fill an estimated 6,000 seats in AP courses, an AP enrollment increase of more than 3,000 during the past two years.

Summer Bridge workshops are led by teachers in the general subject area of the class that students will take. For example, an AP science teacher leads workshops for students entering AP science courses. By attending workshops specific to each subject, partici-

pants can focus on strengthening reading and writing skills in those areas.

Students also gain skills in time and stress management and motivational thinking. By participating in exercises and listening to students from last summer's Bridge program who experienced success in AP coursework, participants are encouraged to meet their own potential for advanced academic work.

"Many of these students have been identified as high potential students as a result of PSAT testing, yet they may not think of themselves as capable of this work," said Wendy Hayes-Ebright, Gifted and Talented Education coordinator. "We want to help them build their tenacity, to help them believe in themselves and not be discouraged by difficult work that they are capable of completing successfully."

AP courses help students earn college credit while still in high school, giving them a competitive edge and saving their parents thousands of dollars on college tuition.

## 'My Three Sons' Now USC, Stanford Grads

Three talented brothers—Brian, James and Steve Hom—all received degrees in the same month from USC and Stanford. The three Eagle Scouts were born and raised in Long Beach and graduated from Poly PACE in 1997, 1998 and 2001. Their dad, Lun Hom, is a cancer surgeon and their mom, Kai Hom, teaches at Whitney High School.

Steve, the oldest, received his doctor of medicine degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC. He previously earned a degree at USC in psychobiology, graduating summa cum laude. He will be attending UC Irvine for his residency in radiology.

Brian, the middle son, received his juris doctor from the Gould School of Law at USC. He previously earned a degree at USC in public policy, management and communication law and media policy, graduating magna cum laude. He will be practicing civil litigation with a Los Angeles law firm.

James, the youngest, received his degree in computer science from Stanford University. He will work as a business consultant in the San Francisco area.

## The Job Board

• Jefferson Leadership Academies is offering a math coach position. The school seeks a dynamic, energetic individual to support new and veteran teachers as they help students achieve math proficiency.

Duties include building capacity within the math department; analyzing data; using analysis to teach and develop engaging lessons; training and supporting teachers with curriculum and classroom management; providing demonstration lessons; and instructing students in small group, whole group and individual settings.

For information, contact Helen Compton-Harris, principal, at 438-9904, or by email at [HCHarris@lbusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:HCHarris@lbusd.k12.ca.us)

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for speech-language pathology assistant.

## Bowl Champ, Rapper Help Freedom School

Famous rapper Warren G and Super Bowl champion Willie McGinest teamed up to open the McGinest Freedom School, a summer enrichment program at Sutter Elementary School. It is part of a network of 70 summer programs supported by the Children's Defense Fund.

Both Warren G and McGinest grew up in Long Beach and attended local public schools.

The month-long program for dozens of third through sixth graders got underway with appearances by the rapper and the McGinest family. The star football player was in training camp in Massachusetts for the upcoming season and was represented by his parents and other family members, who are supportive of education offered here.

The summer enrichment experience stresses literacy, cultural awareness and social action. Dozens of students take part in weekly field trips to places such as the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

Other financial supporters of the project include Superior Super Warehouse and Al Williams Productions.

## • Two Harbors

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history at the isthmus near the rural west end of the island, enrollment has dwindled from two dozen children to only three students last school year, the lowest enrollment ever. The Long Beach Unified School District could no longer afford to keep the school open. Two Harbors was about to be recommended for closure this fall.

But quick action led by Catalina Islanders Michelle Phelps and Doug and Maureen Oudin attracted a huge response this summer and saved the day.

"Dear Friends," read their letter of appeal. "Two Harbors Little Red Schoolhouse is in trouble."

To date, the organizers have raised nearly \$100,000—enough for Two Harbors to continue to operate this fall. A Nissan executive contributed \$4,000. Most donations were from \$10 to \$100. Even the commodore and members of California's only landlocked yacht club without water—the Fullerton Yacht Club—donated to the worthy cause.

A total of more than \$200,000 is needed to keep the school open for the next three years. After that, parents hope the state budget crisis eases and enrollment increases enough to justify keeping the little school open.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to keeping this unique one-room school operating may send tax deductible contributions to Two Harbors School Foundation, P.O. Box 5093, Avalon, CA 90704.

## Scholars Honored

Winners of Jerome Richardson Memorial Scholarships are Christina Braswell, Wilson, who will attend UC San Diego; Krystle Dixon, Poly, UC Santa Barbara; Cristopher Harris, Cabrillo, Prairie View A&M University; and Tyisha Thomas, Jordan, Long Island University. Their scholarships are provided by the parents of a young man killed 17 years ago while leaving a basketball game.

## Names in the News

**Laura Romo**, teacher at Chavez, is the recipient of the 2005 QuikScience Ocean Leadership Award for Elementary Teaching Excellence. The award is a component of the USC QuikScience partnership to promote excellence in ocean science education. The Aquarium of the Pacific, a Chavez school partner, nominated Romo for this award.

**Terri Rennard**, incoming principal at Butler, traveled to Brazil this month as part of the Brazil for Award-Winning Principals Program of the U.S. Department of State. She toured schools, job shadowed and participated in regional seminars on school management and leadership.

**Daniel Hernandez**, student at Bancroft, will participate next spring in the People to People World Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. He will earn high school credit while studying leadership and exploring some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions.

## Classified Web Rules

Rules and Regulations of the Classified Service are available at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us). Find the Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index. Click on Other Related Information.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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