



school bulletin

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

September 23, 2005

CAMS Featured on National TV Show

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science was featured on a national television program broadcast live from Washington, D.C., highlighting the innovative high school reforms implemented at the award-winning school.

Principal Kathy Clark appeared on the U.S. Department of Education program, "Education News Parents Can Use," this week.



Clark

The show featured an interview of Clark and a video made earlier this month at CAMS, which is located on the campus of California State University Dominguez Hills.

CAMS is a recipient of the No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School award, the highest national honor for a school, for its excellence in offering an intensive college preparatory education to motivated students. When applying to colleges, approximately 70 percent of CAMS graduates have declared majors in mathematics, science, engineering and technology related fields.

Hurricane Helpers Aid Three Families

Members of the Personnel Commission and Nutrition Services have come to the aid of three families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. They adopted the Alex, Harris and Washington families, who recently enrolled their children at Poly High School.

The generous school district employees presented members of the hard-hit families with \$1,330 in cash and gift certificates, new cookware, a microwave, electric fans, dinnerware, clothes, shoes and bedding. When the families move into permanent housing, they will also get couches, beds and other furniture that is being kept in storage.

Marilyn Doss, personnel analyst, led the drive. She met the families when they were enrolling their children. She was moved by their upbeat spirits despite all they had been through. When the money was presented, Carl Harris, Sr. was overwhelmed.

"I am very glad I made this choice," he said of moving to Long Beach. "You have no idea."

He promised to return the favor to the people in both departments with a cookout.

"I will not leave this state until I have cooked for every one of you," Harris said. "We'll make some jambalaya and gumbo. I will prepare an authentic New Orleans meal."

Parent Survey: High Satisfaction With Schools

Nearly 17,000 parents of Long Beach Unified School District students responded to a recent survey with expressions of strong support for their schools and school leaders.

When asked to agree or disagree with the statement "Overall, I am satisfied with my child's school," 93 percent of those responding either agreed or strongly agreed.

Parents responded with marks for school leadership that were even higher. When asked to assess the statement, "The administration is effective at running this school," 95 percent agreed or strongly agreed.

"We're thrilled and encouraged that such large numbers of parents appreciate their local schools and the leaders of those schools," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools. "Parents' high level of satisfaction inspires us to do even better."

Students Outperform County, State on API

With the latest state test results for both traditional and year-round schools now in, the Long Beach Unified School District continues to exceed 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) continued to place LBUSD in the milestone "700 Club." The ultimate state target is 800. LBUSD increased its district API to 713, up 19 points over last year. In comparison, the average score for L.A. County schools is 693. The statewide average is 709.

More local schools are entering the 700 range on the API each year. When the state first implemented the index in 1999, only 21 percent of schools in the district scored 700 or better. Today, 75 percent of local schools have scored 700 or above.

Check Website For Report on Budget

The Long Beach Unified School District this week published the first of three reports that will go to parents this fall. The reports, entitled "You Have A Right To Know," will help explain local schools' many challenges and successes. The first report describes the impact of the state budget crisis on schools, including the effects of the suspension of Proposition 98 funding guarantees. The withholding of Prop. 98 funds has meant the loss of approximately \$50 million for LBUSD. The first report is now available to all employees on the school district's homepage at www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us.

The survey of parents who have children at elementary and middle schools was administered in May as part of the Baldrige continuous improvement effort now used to improve district schools and offices. The Baldrige effort is named for Malcolm Baldrige, U.S. Secretary of Commerce from 1981 to 1987. He developed quality improvement strategies and criteria used by the nation's leading corporations.

His successful efforts have helped many companies to satisfy customers by providing higher quality and more cost-effective products and services. Baldrige's contributions were recognized by Congress in 1987.

The results of the recent parent survey here have been provided by the Research Office to local schools as valuable feedback for principals and teachers to use as they continue to work together to improve their schools. Other questions on the survey revealed parent satisfaction with many specific areas including academics, homework, school maintenance, classroom environment, safety, communication, respect among students and teachers, and administrator responsiveness.

Baldrige strategies are used by some of the most successful businesses in the nation. The Baldrige approach is based on seven criteria: leadership, strategic planning, student and administrator responsiveness.

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DIFFERENT DRUMMER—Lakewood High School sophomore Samantha Jovanovic toured Scotland this summer with the 42nd Highlanders Regimental Pipe and Drums, which performs at the Queen Mary. She also plays double bass in Lakewood's orchestra.

• Survey

(Continued from front page)

stakeholder focus, measurement and analysis, faculty/staff focus, process management and results. Employees identify and prioritize areas of need, describe obstacles to achieving goals, identify solutions and develop plans to implement these solutions. Data-driven monitoring confirms whether actions are working.

Organizations that fully implement Baldrige criteria now outperform the S&P 500 companies by 6.5 to 1 in terms of financial indicators and employee and customer satisfaction.

Of the 46,733 questionnaires sent home with students, 16,981 were returned, a response rate of 36 percent.

Classified Classes

The Fall 2005 Training Opportunities catalog was recently distributed to classified employees by the Personnel Commission. New classes offered this semester include It's About Respect (Preventing Harassment in the Workplace), Everyday Creativity (Looking at the Ordinary and Seeing the Extraordinary), Power Point, Microsoft Word and Orienting, Integrating and Developing Staff (Supervisory Series).

Other classes back by popular demand include Who Moved My Cheese?, Conflict Management and Problem Solving (Supervisory Series), CPR Certification, Survival Spanish and Projecting a Professional Image.

To view the rest of the course offerings and to register, visit the Personnel Commission's web page at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us (go to Jobs, Personnel Commission, Staff Development). Classes start Tuesday, October 11.

Reading Readiness

First Five Reading Readiness at Head Start is a free kindergarten readiness program for four and five year old children. The sessions run on Saturdays and in the summer. There is no income requirement. Children who have already participated in Head Start cannot attend.

The next program starts Saturday, October 8. For information, contact Keena Rush or Heather Harris at 427-0833.

Commision's Award

Personnel Commissioners and staff will receive the Prospector Award today from the California Council for Excellence.

The California Awards for Performance Excellence are based on an evaluation of criteria used to judge organizations seeking a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

The Personnel Commission is being honored at the council's Best Practices Conference in San Jose.

Retirement Event

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

Credential Status Available Online

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in any California school district.

Certificated employees may check their credential status by visiting the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website at www.ctc.ca.gov, or by contacting a credential specialist for assistance at ext. 8008. The school district will help employees to meet these state requirements.

Do Homework Online

The Long Beach Public Library is offering Live Homework Help via the Internet.

Live Homework Help is an online tutoring service for students in grades 4-12 featuring expert tutors from across the country. One-on-one help sessions are available in math, science, social studies and English free for all students visiting a Long Beach Public Library location.

Tutors are certified teachers, university professors, graduate school students, students at accredited four-year colleges and professionals who are experts in their fields. All tutors have received a seven-year criminal background check and reference check and have been certified through Tutor.com Training.

This new service will be available on all public computers at libraries, subject to availability, and is in addition to the homework help provided by the library's Family Learning Center and Homework Helper staff. Check with your local library for hours. For information, call 570-6220.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for assistant warehouse manager.

In Memoriam

Leon Caraco
teacher, Lakewood
August 31, 2005

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Earn Salary Credit

Certificated employees may advance on the salary schedule by submitting additional upper division or graduate level units to Human Resource Services.

After the first year of employment, salary changes will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2005-06 contract year if official, sealed transcripts are received by November 1.

Salary changes documented by transcripts submitted by new hires or after the November 1 deadline will apply to the next pay period after transcripts are submitted.

All course work beyond the bachelor's degree must be of upper division or graduate standing and taken at an accredited institution. Courses described as "professional" or "lower division" will not count toward salary credit without prior written approval by Human Resource Services. No salary credit is granted for continuing education units (CEUs). For information, call ext. 8008.

Cost of Living Raise

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education this week approved a 2.26 percent cost of living adjustment for non-represented employees and managers.

The increase will be retroactive to July 2004 and is consistent with the salary increase provided to teachers last year. Checks issued on or after October 14 will reflect the increase. Retroactive pay will be provided in lump sum checks issued on or before December 23.

Dates to Remember

October

	Character Education Month
	Computer Learning Month
	Disabilities Employment Awareness Month
	Filipino American History Month
	Crime Prevention Month
4-5	Rosh Hashanah
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Columbus," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christopher Columbus," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
9-15	Fire Prevention Week
9-15	National Metric Week
10	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
10-14	National School Lunch Week
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Columbus Controversy," Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8
12-13	Yom Kippur
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	Ramadan, First Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
16	National Boss Day
16-22	National School Bus Safety Week
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
18-19	Sukkot
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
22	Make a Difference Day
23-31	Red Ribbon Week
24	United Nations Day
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
30	Standard Time Day
31	Halloween