



school bulletin

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

December 2, 2005

Classified Employees Approve Agreement

The local California School Employees Association chapter has voted overwhelmingly to ratify a bargaining agreement with the Long Beach Unified School District. The agreement is subject to a vote by the Board of Education.

Approximately 93 percent of CSEA Unit A employees and 97 percent of Unit B employees voted in favor of the agreement.

Negotiators agreed to a 2.26 percent raise retroactive to July 1, 2004. The raise is the same as the amount recently approved for the school district's non-represented and management employees.

The bargaining teams also reached agreement on changes to employee health benefit plans. To reduce costs, the district is closing its CCN health plans to CSEA members and instead re-opening PacifiCare HMO and Blue Shield HMO, a move that will save an estimated \$3.9 million. The same arrangement for non-represented employees will save an estimated \$1.5 million. The district continues to offer Blue Shield PPO and Kaiser plans to classified and non-represented employees.

As part of the tentative agreement, the district has rescinded eight layoffs of employees approved November 1 by the Board of Education. The school district also has reversed the negative effects of job transfers, or "bumping," that occurred when jobs were eliminated earlier this year. The transfers were part of a cost-savings plan that eliminated 32 non-teaching positions. In all, 21 CSEA employees were moved, some to comparable positions with comparable pay, some to similar positions with reduced hours, and others to positions that paid less. For employees who saw a reduction in pay, the school district has now restored these workers to previous or comparable positions. For other employees whose hours were reduced, the school district is providing additional hourly compensation until comparable positions become available.

Rotary Helps Libraries

Rotary Past President Frank Newell, a Poly High School alumnus and local attorney, raised approximately \$30,000 in donations and matching funds for Reading by 9 books during this week's Long Beach Rotary Club meeting.

Newell solicited \$15,000 in donations from the audience in five minutes. Scholastic, Inc. will match the funds, bringing the total to \$30,000.

These funds will buy thousands of books for Long Beach Unified School District schools that have some of the lowest book-to-pupil ratios in their libraries. Books also will go to the Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Cambodian Association of America.

Long Beach Rotary in recent years has contributed more than 77,000 books to LBUSD's school libraries.

20 More Teachers Earn National Certification

Twenty more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification.

The newest certifications bring the total number of nationally certified teachers in the school district to 96.

The rigorous certification is an exhaustive year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and answering four 90-minute essay questions during a June exam. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 3 million teachers, or about 16,000, earn the certification each year.

New National Board Certified teachers include Shawn Abbate, Poly; Jennifer Arsenault, Addams; Devon Day, Wilson; Patricia Ferris, Alvarado; Diana Figueroa, Garfield; Tara Foster-Escobar, Roosevelt; Judy

Haenn, Poly; Ronda Hoops, Hill; Outey Khuon, Whittier; Ashley Lindstrom, Garfield; Samantha McCarthy, Stanford; Anne McCroskey, Millikan; Mark Oberjuege, Jordan; Pamela Oehlman, Robinson; Jessica Parker, Garfield; Sandy Patton, Lakewood; James Petri, Longfellow; Mary Ruffner, Poly; Lisa Ulmer, Jordan; and Kam Weller, Lakewood.

The school district has made a commitment to support teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification. Teachers who are accepted and successfully complete the pre-candidacy program are eligible for district payment of National Board application fees, a \$2,300 savings.

Teachers who obtain National Board Certification receive 5 percent salary increases (Continued on back page)

DeMille Teacher Wins National Milken Prize

DeMille Middle School teacher James Orihuela received a \$25,000 surprise award recently from the Milken Family Foundation during a school assembly. The announcement drew wild cheers from hundreds of students.

Dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by Teacher Magazine, the Milken National Educator Awards recognize America's best teachers and principals.

"The first thing I did when I got up out of my chair was to make sure my legs would hold me up," Orihuela told the audience. "There are so many teachers I've learned from here at DeMille, so I'm trying to figure out, why me? I sure enjoy what I do, and I'm lucky to have the kids I work with."

The Spanish and language arts teacher earned the national honor as a highly talented, inspirational educator whose classroom prac-

tices are among the best in the U.S. He may spend the cash prize as he pleases.

Orihuela's colleagues describe him as the heart and soul of the school's Dual Immersion instruction. He facilitates Spanish language instruction of math, history and science for five sections of sixth, seventh and eighth graders at DeMille, while teaching five sections of Spanish Language Arts at all grade levels. He has taught at the school for ten years.

"He's a great teacher," said eighth grader Sheridan Riley. "He makes learning fun. Everyone's vocabulary in Spanish and English has improved so much because of the way he teaches and reaches out to every student based on their individual needs."

Milken Family Foundation Chairman Lowell Milken announced the prize at (Continued on back page)

AND THE WINNER IS—

DeMille teacher James Orihuela reacts to a surprise announcement that he won \$25,000 to spend as he pleases. The cash prize came with the Milken National Educator Award, which recognizes America's best teachers and principals. Orihuela's students praised him for making learning fun and reaching out to every student based on their individual needs. The national awards have provided more than \$54 million since 1985.



• Nationally Certified

(Continued from front page)

and, should they choose to serve as mentor teachers, receive additional 5 percent salary increases. California also rewards its nationally certified instructors with \$20,000 over four years if they teach at high-need schools.

A national credential is not required like a state credential, but to be certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is an extremely high distinction.

The National Board is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental agency created to establish rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. It is a voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet high standards, and it advances education reforms to improve student learning. The board was created in 1987 by a team of teachers, policymakers, academics and corporate leaders.

Retirement Planning

Two retirement seminars for employees participating in CalSTRS will be held Tuesday, January 10 and Monday, February 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 1515 Hughes Way, Room 143.

Presenters will explain CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation and disability and survivor benefits. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Attendance will be limited. To RSVP, call ext. 8214. The deadline to reserve a seat is Friday, December 16.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 13 in the Wilson High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Rose Richard	Jan. 11	Heidi Oliver ext. 3016

In Memoriam

Paula Kearney
counselor, Millikan
September 12, 2005

Merrie Hill
teacher, Riley
October 27, 2005

Louise Koch
former counselor
November 22, 2005

George Wright
former teacher
November 26, 2005

Schools Raise Funds For Children's Clinic

Teams from Long Beach Unified School District schools and offices were significant benefactors in the recent 15th Annual Beach Walk, a fundraiser in support of The Children's Clinic, which serves local students.

Webster Elementary School fielded the top elementary school team, generating \$6,800. The team walked in memory of Dr. Katherine White, a clinic volunteer and board member who died in July. She was the grandmother of Webster teacher Rebecca Qualls.

Three separate teams from Millikan High School combined to earn the top amount. The school's Compass team earned \$5,226, the softball team \$1,811 and the Associated Student Body team \$421 for a total of \$7,458. In all, 19 LBUSD teams participated, raising more than \$20,000.

The Job Board

- A bilingual Spanish-speaking person is needed to teach parenting education nine hours a week through the LBUSD Family Literacy program. A bachelor's degree or higher with major focus in the area of child development is required. A background in family literacy is preferred. For information, call Colleen Triesch, program director, at 427-1041.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for food production equipment technician, Head Start parent involvement manager and site specialist-Special Projects.

Names in the News

Amy Stuht, assistant principal at EPHS, and **Susan Marumoto**, head counselor at EPHS, recently presented their study, "Math Instruction Models in Independent Study" at the California Educational Research Association's annual conference.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Francisca Alvarado, instructional aide-special, Chavez;

Giuseppina Wright, contract analyst, Purchasing.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SUJA LOWENTHAL, President
JAMES CHOURA, Vice President
JON MEYER, Member
MARY STANTON, Member
FELTON WILLIAMS, Member
NGOC NGUYEN, Student Member

• Milken Prize

(Continued from front page)

DeMille.

"I believe that teachers have the most important job in our country," Milken said. "Every successful person will tell you there's a special teacher or two who helped them get to where they are."

Milken described Orihuela as "a teacher who characterizes intelligence, compassion and an unwavering belief that every child can learn."

Orihuela teaches literature from Latin America and Spain. His students write and perform plays about the stories they read. All of his students passed the Golden State Spanish Language exam for the three years it was administered, and 96 percent passed with high honors last year. His students were the only middle school students in the district to take this exam.

The DeMille teacher also serves as Dual Immersion Department Head and is visited by educators from throughout the state who want to learn more about his students' success.

Also attending the award presentation were State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and actor/writer/producer Robert Townsend.

"Anything is possible if you work hard," Townsend told the students. "Believe in yourself, and everything is possible."

Orihuela is the third district employee to win the Milken National Educator Award in the Long Beach Unified School District. Millikan High School teacher Nader Twal won the prize in 2003. Former City of Lakewood Mayor Wayne Piercy, now retired, won the award in 1990 when he was principal at Poly High School.

The Milken National Educator Awards were created in 1985 to celebrate the highest caliber teachers in American schools. This fall, up to 100 unsuspecting educators throughout the nation are receiving the \$25,000 prizes. The awards have become the largest national teacher recognition effort in the U.S., awarding more than \$54 million since the program started. Prize winners join a network of 2,100 of the nation's best teachers, sharing expertise and expanding innovative programs in classrooms.

The criteria for selection include the following:

- Exceptional educational talent as evidenced by outstanding instructional practices in the classroom, school and profession;

- Outstanding accomplishment and strong long-range potential for professional and policy leadership; and

- Engaging and inspiring presence that motivates and impacts students, colleagues and the community.

For more information about the Milken Educator Awards, visit www.mff.org.

Take a Trip to Japan

Full-time administrators and teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District are eligible for the 2005 South Bay Educator Award.

Sponsored by the Japan Business Association, the award features a two-week cultural awareness trip to Japan.

Application forms are available from the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development at ext. 8025. The application deadline is Thursday, December 29.