



school bulletin

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December 16, 2005

Hurricane Fund Drive Gains National Praise

Students at Gompers Elementary School were among those honored from 14 schools nationwide for their efforts to raise funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The students were singled out by RandomKid as the standouts from 4,000 schools nationwide that raised \$5.2 million.

Five Gompers students participated in a recent conference call where the total amount raised was announced. Among them was first grader Joe Aubuchon, who donated \$217 he had saved over two years to purchase a white German shepherd puppy.

Adults who learned of Joe's generosity later purchased a dog for him, named Marshmallow, who is now four months old and "good at playing tag," said Joe.

Gompers students raised \$5,100, primarily from a Kool-Aid stand operated by Ryan, Micah and Whitney Hollingsworth. They took in more than \$3,000 in one weekend.

Other Long Beach Unified School District schools recently added to relief funds:

- Willard Elementary School raised \$3,000 for the Red Cross. Students, parents and staff collected \$2,300 while a PTA yard sale with donated items raised another \$700.

- Jefferson Leadership Academies raised \$1,600. The school distributed \$500 to the NAACP relief effort and divided \$1,100 among three families who have relocated from New Orleans to Long Beach.

- Hill Classical Middle School's car wash raised \$1,021, which was donated to First Book, an organization that provides school books and materials to students who are flood victims.

- Burcham Elementary School students and staff collected \$1,517 for hurricane relief. These funds were then matched by a private company.

- Stevenson Elementary School raised \$1,000 for school supplies for students relocated as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

- Avalon School completed its Katrina relief, collecting four boxes of school supplies, personal items, games, books and clothing. Bake sales and student musicians playing on the downtown stage also raised \$1,000.

- Bryant Elementary School students raised \$913.32 in a spare change drive.

- Newcomb Academy students held an art auction that raised nearly \$1,500.

Education Celebration

Education Celebration will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, January 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

The event combines the features of an exposition and a community festival. Families may visit the booths of every elementary and K-8 school in the district.

Your Extra Efforts Give Kids, Parents Hope

By Chris Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

Amid another lean budget year and other difficult challenges, our employees' daily efforts continue to give our students the best gift of all: a good education. Thanks to your dedication and willingness to put kids first, our schools this fall have gained the attention of educators from throughout the state, the nation and beyond – most recently from Hong Kong. More importantly, you've earned the respect and appreciation of the parents we serve, and they continue to show overwhelming support.

The tally of this school year's accomplishments is impressive. Thank you to all who have contributed to these and many other successful efforts this school year.

- Results for both traditional and year-round schools showed that the Long Beach Unified School District continues to exceed both the academic growth of Los Angeles County and the State of California. Recent numbers from the state showed 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.

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

- 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.

- Hill Classical Middle School is in the running for the 2006 No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon School Award, the highest national honor a school can earn. Only 35 schools in California were nominated for the award. The Blue Ribbon Award winners will be announced in September.

- LBUSD has 17 elementary and K-8 schools that are eligible to apply for the 2006 California Distinguished School Award.

District schools eligible to apply are Buffum, Carver, Edison, Fremont, Gant, Gompers, Holmes, Hudson, International, Lee, Madison, Muir, Newcomb, Prisk, Robinson, Tincher and Twain.

- Lakewood High School was named one of 10 statewide winners of the Gold Standard Award given 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.

- The state's GEAR UP college readiness program recognized Lindbergh Middle School 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.

- Students and staff have raised tens of thousands of dollars for hurricane relief, attracting national attention for their selfless and creative efforts. These are teachable moments that our students will remember forever.

- Emerson Parkside Academy received a site visit to determine if they will win the Eureka Award for Performance Excellence, the state version of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. If Emerson wins the award, it

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Hong Kong's Expert Learns from LBUSD

Sha-Lun Lee, Hong Kong's chief curriculum development officer, recently visited the Long Beach Unified School District and came away impressed with efforts here to help students with English acquisition.

"He was extremely impressed at how advanced we are with English acquisition," said Pam Seki, program administrator for PALMS. "Hong Kong is in the process of creating teaching materials much like the materials we have already developed here."

Lee was particularly impressed with the process used here to develop the curriculum, involving input from teachers, administrators and specialists. He took back to Hong Kong samples of course outlines, exams and student progress monitoring tools.

Lee's trip was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. He visited districts in North Carolina, Washington, D.C. and Texas. LBUSD was his only California stop.



• A Successful Year

(Continued from front page)
will be the first charter school in California to earn the high honor.

- 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.

- 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.

- More than 200 guest principals from business and industry were impressed by the high quality of local schools they saw at the annual Principal for a Day event. We welcomed outstanding new corporate sponsor, JetBlue Airways Corporation.

The Job Board

Franklin Middle School is seeking a teacher to provide an afterschool intervention math class starting in January and offered Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. For information, contact Lisa Leon in the PALMS Office, ext. 8031 by Wednesday, January 11.

Dates to Remember

January	
1	New Year's Day
1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities
2	New Year's Day-Observed
5	Dr. George Washington Carver Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"I Have A Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
15	World Religion Day
16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"I Have A Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Adventures in Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Dare to Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:20, 12:20—"First Moon: Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
29	Chinese New Year
31	First of Muharram (Islamic New Year)

In Memoriam

Lorie Lindahl
former athletic director
December 8, 2005

Mike Smith
teacher, Wilson
December 10, 2005

Port of L.B. Donates Dozens of Computers

In the holiday spirit, the Port of Long Beach is donating 200 personal computers to Long Beach high schools where the PCs will be an upgrade for their technology training and economics programs.

"The Port's computers are perfect for us," said George Foe-Aman, a computer teacher at Cabrillo Hill School in West Long Beach. He said the computers will replace older models.

The Port is in the midst of its first major computer upgrade in five years. Instead of auctioning off its older computers for an estimated \$3,000, or trading them in for a \$5,000 discount on new computers, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted in February to recycle the PCs by donating them to local high schools.

"This is in line with the goals of our Green Port Policy, which seeks to promote sustainability and calls for the Port to engage and educate the community about the Port and its programs," said Harbor Commission President Doris Topsy-Elvord.

The Port is offering to package its "Trade Is" and "Julio's New Ride" education videos with the donated computers. The DVD videos are being used this year by Long Beach area high schools to teach economics students about international trade.

The PCs going to Long Beach high schools are Dell Optiplex computers with Pentium III 866 MHz processors and 256 MB RAM memory, along with monitors and keyboards. Foe-Aman said that the more than 30 computers going to Cabrillo will replace all of the older, slower PCs in their computer lab. At least 80 PCs will be going to Long Beach Poly High School.

Computer Discounts

Gateway has recently updated their Employee Purchase Program (EPP) for Long Beach Unified School District employees. Model information, pricing and ordering are all done online. Details can be found on the District Technology Standards page at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Technology/Standards. On the left hand side click on 'FAQ' and then click on 'General Questions/FAQs'.

Information on employee purchases of Apple computers can also be found here. In addition, the technology standards pages contain ample information on district technology implementation, information on what to buy and more.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Millikan Virtual Class

Students in Nader Twal's philosophy class at Millikan High School are continuing their "virtual classroom" with environmental science students at a New Jersey high school, thanks to a \$40,000 grant from Verizon.

Piloted last year, the ELEVATE program uses advanced video conferencing equipment to bring the two groups of students together in meaningful conversation.

By focusing on an important local environmental issue—this year it's deer overpopulation in New Jersey—students learn to sustain ethical discussions in order to implement thoughtful reforms. Conferenced classes take place once a week.

Last year, Verizon offered the unobtrusive conferencing equipment at a steep discount. The Long Beach Education Foundation and LBUSD technology leader Vanitha Chandrasekhar helped arrange for its purchase.

This year's grant will purchase laptops for students to use to improve their real-time interaction with their counterparts across the nation.

Job Sharing

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2006-07 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

- January 17—Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

- March 1—Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services. For additional information, contact Judy Marshall at ext. 8253.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Alonso Avila, instructional aide-special, Cabrillo;

Raquel Gomez, school community worker, Barton;

Bruce Leroy, assistant warehouse manager, Purchasing;

Austin Nhev, speech-language pathology assistant, The Willows;

Lourdes Perez, intermediate office assistant-school, Lindbergh;

Mark Powers, supervising software applications engineer, Research, Planning and Evaluation;

Jan Tunncliff, supervising food production equipment technician, Nutrition Services.

W-2s Coming Soon

W-2 forms will be sent to employees by Tuesday, January 31. To receive W-2 forms, employees should make sure that their home mailing address is current in the school district's computer system. Change of address forms are available through payroll clerks. If addresses are outdated, the U.S. Postal Service does not forward W-2 forms.