



school bulletin

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

April 28, 2006

Ten More Schools Earn Top State Honor

Ten more elementary and K-8 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District won the California Distinguished School Award this week.

Buffum, Edison, International, Muir, Prisk and Twain elementary schools, along with Hudson, Newcomb, Robinson and Tincher K-8 schools, earned the top state award.

"This is a great day for our schools," said Chris Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "Congratulations to the teachers, administrators, support staff, parents and volunteers who earned these well-deserved honors. Thanks to their team efforts, our students are receiving an exceptional education."

To earn the California Distinguished School Award, schools compete in rigorous selection and screening conducted by the California Department of Education. Winning schools may apply for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

"These schools are the best of the best. They share a vision of excellence and they have brought that vision to life," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

The recent winners demonstrated high academic expectations for all students, achievement above state standards, strong leadership, competent and caring teachers focused on standards, and outstanding curriculum.

Statewide winners also must show exem-

play family involvement and partnerships with the business community, comprehensive guidance and counseling services, ample support for students with a wide range of needs, and a safe learning environment that promotes citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness.

Hill Classical Middle School, Hughes Middle School and Wilson Classical High School were all named California Distinguished Schools last year. Hill is now a nominee for the National Blue Ribbon Award, to be announced this fall.

Five of this year's statewide honorees are repeat winners: Hudson, International, Newcomb, Prisk and Twain. A total of 35 Long Beach Unified School District schools have now received this top state honor.

This year's winners will be honored on May 26 at an awards ceremony and dinner at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

For more information about the California Distinguished School Awards, visit www.cde.ca.gov.



Roosevelt Elementary Earns National Award

Roosevelt Elementary School is one of only six schools nationwide that will receive the National School Change Award for extraordinary gains in student achievement.

The award is given by the National Principals Leadership Institute at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education.

"This shows the rest of the country that it can be done," said Lew Smith, Director of the National Principals Leadership Institute. "It's the only award of its kind, because it's dedicated to recognizing schools that have turned themselves around so that they are not only acceptable, but exemplary. At Roosevelt, they have worked hard as a team to bring themselves up."

Smith will present the award at 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 9 at Roosevelt during a ceremony to include students, staff, parents and community members.

Since 2001, Roosevelt has seen a 182-point gain on the state's Academic Performance Index (API), far exceeding the state's 30-point target for the five-year period. The school has now achieved an API of 763 and is fast approaching the state's ultimate target for all schools, 800 points. All ethnic and socioeconomic subgroups of students have achieved expected gains.

About 85 percent of students at Roosevelt are English-language learners, and all students are on free lunch programs.

"What we say at Roosevelt is, if we can do it here, anybody can do it," Principal Stefanie

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Foundation Hosts Most Inspiring Students

An evening of uplifting stories about exemplary students who have beaten the odds is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 25 at the Long Beach Hilton.

The annual Most Inspiring Student Awards Dinner, sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation, recognizes one student selected from each school in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Reservations are available by calling the foundation at 997-8023. The donation is \$100. The keynote speaker is Sam "Bam" Cunningham, the former star football player for USC who was the first African-American to play football in Alabama.

Frank Mottek, news broadcaster for KNX Radio and KTLA, Channel 5 will co-emcee the event with Mike Murray, immediate past-president of the Long Beach Education Foundation.

The event theme this year is "A Tribute to Rhythm & Blues."

During the dinner, the Superintendent's Distinguished Community Service Award will be given to The Junior League of Long Beach for decades of dedication, inspiration, leadership, volunteering and fundraising benefiting children in local schools.

Keynote speaker Cunningham played in the historically significant 1970 game in which USC defeated Alabama 42-21 at Birmingham

Legion Field. Alabama coach Bear Bryant's Crimson Tide was, as they had always been, made up of all white players, as the university wasn't ready to integrate.

When Trojan running back Cunningham and teammate, African American quarterback Jimmy Jones, both had a good game, the University of Alabama finally realized that to compete, they would have to integrate their teams.

Students to be recognized at the awards dinner represent one or more of the following qualities. Each winner:

- is an inspiring example,
- is unusually persistent,
- makes a tremendous effort,
- is an exemplary "good citizen" who is dedicated to serving the school or community,
- could be described as a hero for overcoming adversity or circumstances that might have prevented a less determined student from succeeding, or
- has made a dramatic improvement or turnaround.

Proceeds of the event support the Long Beach Education Foundation charities with grants, school uniforms for students whose families cannot afford them, camperships to Hi-Hill Outdoor School, scholarships and other assistance.

Election Results

Results from the April 11 Board of Education election for the Long Beach Unified School District indicate that Mary Stanton will retain her District 1 seat after defeating challenger Jim Deaton by a narrow margin.

Michael Ellis will succeed Suja Lowenthal in District 3. Incumbent Fifth District Board Member Jim Choura will face challenger David Barton in a run-off election on June 6. The semi-official election results were expected to be certified by the Long Beach City Clerk's Office soon. The certification was not expected to change the outcome.

In District 1, Stanton received 3,795 votes, or 50.9 percent, while Deaton received 3,660 votes, or 49 percent. In District 3, Ellis received 2,326 votes, or 59.8 percent, while Lowenthal received 1,560 votes, or 40.1 percent. In District 5, Barton received 6,423 votes, or 44.8 percent, while Choura received 5,511 votes, or 38.5 percent, and Florence Wilson received 2,378 votes, or 16.6 percent. The June run-off between Choura and Barton is necessary because neither candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote.

• Roosevelt

(Continued from front page)

Holzman said. "I'm very pleased that our staff is getting this national recognition for their hard work. I'm even more pleased for our students. Technically, they are the have-nots, but they can compete with the haves because they are achieving high standards."

In addition to the awards presentation at the school, Holzman and selected Roosevelt teachers will travel to New York in July for a national awards presentation by the U.S. Department of Education. While in New York City, the principal and a teacher also will participate in a Principals Leadership Institute at Fordham University. The award comes with a \$5,000 grant that will help cover the cost of the trip. The focus of the institute will be team building.

Holzman attributes Roosevelt's success to the use of data to drive high quality instruction, and to collaboration and self-reflection by teachers.

"We hold high expectations for students, and for ourselves," Holzman said.

Nominated schools submit data to demonstrate significant schoolwide change, improved teaching and learning, and measurably increased achievement.

Over the past seven years, 474 schools have been nominated for the Fordham honor. Only 42, or six each year, have been selected as winners. More than 100 nominations were submitted this year. A national panel of judges selected the winning schools.

Roosevelt earlier this month was named one of 17 schools in the Long Beach Unified School District to earn the Title I Academic Achievement Award. Title I winners must demonstrate the achievement level of twice the schoolwide API growth target and twice the API growth target for the socio-economically disadvantaged subgroup for two consecutive years.

In 2004, Roosevelt earned the California Distinguished School Award.

Community Orchestra

Roger Johnson will direct the Long Beach Community Orchestra one last time at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 7 in the Long Beach City College Auditorium. The former Long Beach Unified School District music instructor and longtime conductor at the college is retiring.

The Community Orchestra includes students and teachers from local schools and the college. The performance will take place at the Carson Campus, 4901 E. Carson.

Johnson attended Long Beach schools and taught at Millikan High School and DeMille Middle School for more than 16 years.

The orchestra will perform Dvorak's New World Symphony, a Piano Concerto by Grieg and other pieces. Tickets are \$6 at the door.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9 in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer. All interested employees are invited to attend.

Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Do you know an outstanding classified employee who deserves recognition? If so, there's still time to nominate this person for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award. The nomination deadline has been extended until Thursday, May 4. Employees who have been nominated in prior years may be nominated again.

Nomination forms are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us under Personnel Commission. Completed forms may be faxed to (562) 983-1588 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be delivered in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor, Long Beach.

The nominee should be:

- one who supports the LBUSD's educational mission by contributing significantly to the classroom support and/or the business (non-school) operations of the district,

- one who demonstrates a commitment to being a team player and a positive role model for others, and

- one who strives for excellence in personal performance.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible for this honor. Only district classified or certificated employees may nominate a classified employee. Self-nominations will not be considered.

The winner and finalists will be recognized Friday, May 19 at a Mardi Gras-themed Classified Employee Recognition Barbecue held at the Teacher Resource Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The top winner also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting.

The Job Board

- Applications are being accepted for two full-time school nurse positions, one for immediate placement and one for the 2006-07 school year. Qualifications include RN license, bachelor's degree, Public Health Certificate and School Nursing Credential or willingness to work toward the credential. For information, call Judy Dearing at ext. 7172.

- Webster Elementary School has an opening for a 50 percent Title I program facilitator for 2006-07. Applicants need five years of teaching experience and good organizational skills. Contact Kevin Maddox, principal, at ext. 7967.

- Roosevelt Elementary School is looking for a teacher for its fifth grade EXCEL program. Contact Stefanie Holzman, principal, at ext. 5650.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for accounting director, benefits manager, boiler and gas appliance technician, pool attendant, return to work specialist and workers' compensation manager.

Kindergarten Festival

An informational Kindergarten Festival for incoming kindergartners and their families is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Renaissance High School for the Arts, 235 E. 8th Street, Long Beach. This is the final kindergarten festival of this year's series.

The free festival will allow children and parents to meet a kindergarten teacher. Refreshments and registration information for incoming 2006 kindergartners will be provided. For information, call 925-2285, ext. 122.

Madrigal Winners

Lakewood High School's Madrigal Chamber Choir recently took first place at the Coastline Music Festival on a cruise to Mexico. Students raised funds for the trip with car washes, singing valentines and choir performances.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Katherine McGlothlin	May 12	Lynda Dowlen 420-2697
Paula Wiertzema	June 2	Lilly Yoshimura 598-9601

Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
5	Cinco de Mayo
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Paper Sculpture," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
6-12	National Nurse Week
7-13	National Teacher Appreciation Week
9	National Teacher Day
10	California Day of the Teacher
10	National School Nurse Day
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Southeast Asia: How Does Change Occur?" (Asian/Pacific Cultures), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14-20	Reading is Fun Week
15-19	Classified Employee Week
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War" (Memorial Day), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
20	Armed Forces Day
21-27	National Educational Bosses Week
24	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
29	Memorial Day
31	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8

In Memoriam

Cheryl Partridge
former teacher
April 10, 2006

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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