



school bulletin

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New Chavez School Earns Design Awards

Downtown Long Beach's newest school, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, has won eight awards for outstanding design and energy efficiency.

The awards come from various construction experts and regulatory agencies. Most recently, Chavez earned a 2005 Savings by Design Award "for expert integration of energy efficiency" and earned certification by the Collaboration for High Performance Schools for its environmentally sound design.

The Savings by Design Awards are co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and administered by Southern California Edison, the Southern California Gas Company and other utilities.

The non-profit Collaboration for High Performance Schools was established in 2002 in response to California's energy crisis. It is a free informational resource made up of all of the major state agencies that are involved with building public schools, including public utilities, designers and school facility planning officials.

Chavez earned the two recent awards for surpassing state energy efficiency requirements by more than 34 percent. Reductions in annual energy consumption at Chavez equate to annual utility savings of nearly \$30,000 compared

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LPA, Inc./Cristian Costea Photography

LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN—Chavez Elementary School has earned numerous awards for its budget-conscious and environmentally friendly design.

TEAM EFFORT—Emerson School students and staff celebrate their Eureka Award for outstanding practices, the top honor given by the California Council for Excellence. Emerson is the first charter elementary school in the state to win the honor.



Emerson School Wins State Baldrige Honor

Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School is the first school of its kind to win the statewide Eureka Award for Performance Excellence. The award is the top honor given by the California Council for Excellence, recognizing leading businesses and organizations for using Baldrige continuous improvement strategies. Emerson is the first charter elementary school in the state to win the honor.

The Excellence Council is urging Emerson to apply for the Baldrige National Quality Award. 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.

"We're excited about the recommendation to apply for the national award," said Cindy Young, Emerson principal. "The fact that someone recognizes what our teachers and staff are doing is great. We've come a long way."

Emerson was one of 17 organizations recognized with the performance awards, including Boeing's Air Force Systems Division. The school completed a 60-page application. Trained examiners from the Excellence Council conducted interviews during a two-day school visit.

Winners demonstrated "superior performance in leadership, customer focus, strategic planning, human resources and business results," according to the council.

Five years ago, Emerson was a traditional elementary school in the Long Beach Unified School District. It converted to a charter campus under Principal Cindy Young's guidance and has seen steady improvements in student achievement. Charter schools are publicly funded, independent schools that are free from some of the state's education regulations.

The non-profit Excellence Council helps private and public-sector organizations achieve world-class results through Baldrige principles. Baldrige provides a systematic process used by some of the top businesses in the nation. It is based on leadership, strategic planning, stakeholder focus, measurement and analysis, staff focus, process management and results.

Prior to winning this year's top honor, Emerson last year won the Excellence Council's California Prospector Award, the organization's second highest honor for effective implementation of Baldrige principles.

This year's honorees will be recognized Friday, April 7 at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine.

Student Attendance Reaches Record High

Students in the Long Beach Unified School District have attained record high attendance, missing the fewest days of school last year in a 26-year comparison. Record-breaking attendance rates were achieved by students here at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school.

For the second year in a row, the highest percentage of actual attendance was at the middle school level. For decades, elementary schools had led the district with the highest attendance rates, increasing from 92.6 percent in 1980 to 95.9 percent last year.

Middle schools' actual attendance edged past elementary schools again, however, increasing from 89.9 percent in 1980 to 96.2 percent in 2004-05. High school students' actual attendance grew from 91.3 percent in 1980 to 95.5 percent last year.

CSEA Raise OK'd

The Board of Education recently approved a bargaining agreement with the local chapter of the California School Employees Association. The agreement included a 2.26 percent raise retroactive to July 1, 2004. The raise is the same as the amount approved for the school district's non-represented and management employees.

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

CSEA employees received retroactive lump sum checks December 23. The 2.26 percent raise was reflected on recent paychecks.

What Others Say

The following is from a recent front page Los Angeles Times article regarding the crucial role of public schools after the hurricanes in the Gulf Region. The Long Beach Unified School District has accepted 48 students from the affected region and has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the relief effort.

Families are struggling and unsettled, victims of failed levees or a botched rescue effort. But for all that went wrong during that terrible week at the end of summer, the public schools were the one segment of government that rose to the challenge for many of the estimated 372,000 displaced children, regardless of their race or class.

Across the country, schools absorbed traumatized children who had witnessed death, suffered loss and gone hungry. They dispatched abuse and trauma counselors, hired teachers, enlisted tutors and found extra textbooks. Tight budgets were stretched ever tighter.

"I got calls from all over the country saying, 'We'll take the kids,'" said Paul Houston, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators in Virginia. "Voluntarily, massively, all these districts have taken them in, and you don't hear that there's some huge mess. They are making it work."

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for braille transcriber, food production equipment technician, Nutrition Services operations coordinator and supervisor-autism services.

In Memoriam

J.D. White
year-round crew custodian, Operations
November 4, 2005

Ron Allen
teacher, Barton CDC
December 16, 2005

Concepcion Flores
former teacher
December 22, 2005

Wendell Murray
former principal
January 7, 2006

Elementary Schools Achieve STAR Status

The Board of Education recently recognized 18 elementary schools with STAR Awards for significant gains in student achievement. More elementary schools than ever qualified for the awards this year.

Two schools received the STAR award for the fourth time: Naples and Tucker.

Four schools were honored for the third time: Garfield, Keller, Signal Hill and Whittier.

Nine schools were two-year recipients: Alvarado, Barton, Buffum, Edison, Gompers, Holmes, Kettering, Longfellow and Muir.

Three schools received the award for the first time: Carver, Lee and Prisk.

To receive the STAR (Student Success Terrific Teaching Academic Results) Award, a school must

- triple its API and each sub-group growth target,
- show English Learner positive growth toward proficiency on the California Standards Tests (CST),
- have more students reach grade level proficiency in their reading benchmark and math facts than the year before, and
- make significant gains in reducing its achievement gap.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Charles Hawbaker, truck driver, Nutrition Services;

Maria Lopez, middle school office supervisor, Hughes;

Latricia Rambo, Nutrition Services supervisor II, Butler;

Paula Shelton, intermediate accounting assistant, Nutrition Services;

Maria Vera, intermediate office assistant, Cabrillo.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPs) for December were **Tony Buckelew**, Emerson; **Julie Craig**, Gant; **Rita Elner**, Jefferson; **Christina French**, Twain; **Maria Hernandez**, Willard; **Carol Kron**, Longfellow; **Sean and Rebecca McMullen**, Fremont; and **Amy Pregor**, Gompers.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Chavez Awards

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to minimally compliant buildings.

"The ability to integrate innovative environmental technologies into a well-sculpted building is a tough job and done extremely well in this project," declared the Savings by Design jurors. They complimented the building's use of color, its relationship to the open space, and its low-cost, high-efficiency design. The school also scored points for efficient use of limited urban space, and for "carefully considering shared use and the health and support of the entire community in environmental and social terms."

The jurors concluded, "It's the kind of long-term reality that we need in order to build wonderful places for children, not just when they're in school but the whole time."

The K-5 school opened in fall 2004 and includes an onsite health clinic and joint-use gymnasium.

Chavez was built in close cooperation with the City of Long Beach. A partnership with adjacent Cesar Chavez Park allows the public to use the school's gymnasium on weekends and after school on weekdays, in exchange for sectioning off a portion of the park as a playground during school hours.

At Chavez, storm water is diverted from roofs, roads and parking lots, and it is filtered before being discharged into the storm drain systems, while other areas are sloped to channel storm water into planted areas. Drought tolerant landscaping and efficient irrigation reduced outdoor water consumption by 100,000 gallons per year compared to standard buildings.

Recycled materials were used throughout the school, which features post-consumer recycled ceiling tiles, toilet partitions, gypsum wall-board, aluminum window frames, curtain wall systems and rubberized playground. Builders also used materials that emitted fewer chemicals in ceiling tiles, wall insulation, flooring, wallboards and wall coverings.

The lighting systems at Chavez make efficient use of dimming devices, daylight sensors and occupancy sensors, while a highly efficient heating and cooling system reduces costs even further.

Chavez has won six other design honors recently from the American Institute of Architects Orange County Chapter, the Coalition for Adequate School Housing/American Institute of Architects California Council and the American Institute of Architects Long Beach/South Bay Chapter.

Clean Cars for Music

Superintendent Chris Steinhauer was among a team of city leaders who employed sponges and towels at a recent car wash to benefit Wilson High School's music program.

Approximately 150 cars were washed during the event, bringing in more than \$2,000.

Proceeds from the car wash will help improve Wilson's music practice room to better serve more than 300 young musicians.

Others participating were Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill (a former music teacher), Councilmember Frank Colonna, Press Telegram Publisher Mark Stevens, Gazette Newspapers Editor Harry Saltzgaver, Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard Steinke and Long Beach City Manager Jerry Miller.