



school bulletin

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

February 10, 2006



NEW CENTER FOR HOMELESS—
For hundreds of homeless students, the new Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center this week was dedicated by Dr. Evelyn Bethune, granddaughter of the famous pioneer advocate for the education of America's children, poor or wealthy.

Bethune Dedicates Homeless Student Center

In the spirit of her grandmother's unwavering dedication to the education of all young people, Dr. Evelyn Bethune was the guest of honor yesterday at the dedication of the new Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students.

The event celebrated the Long Beach Unified School District's newest building that supports McLeod Bethune's advocacy of excellent education for all students, especially those who have the least.

"You've come together and done something quite magnificent," said Evelyn Bethune, CEO of the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation in Washington, D.C. "This is a project that will help heal a lot of what's wrong in this country. It will bring a lot of communities together. This is how to do it.

"Thank you for helping to continue the legacy of my grandmother."

The ceremony showcased the new west Long Beach facilities that replace two old bungalows that formerly housed the homeless center. Two years ago, L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe, an advocate of education for the homeless, committed a million-dollar grant to construct the new building, which will serve more than 300 students each year.

The new facilities include two classrooms, nurse's, counselor's and administrative offices, a parent center, kitchen and restrooms.

The center is located at the Villages of Cabrillo, which provide temporary housing to families while they get back on their feet and find housing in the community.

McLeod Bethune founded the National Council for Negro Women, helped to found the United Nations, and was an adviser to four U.S. presidents. Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed her as Director for African American Affairs. She dedicated her life to bridging communication and understanding gaps among races. Her lifelong mission—decades after the Civil War but long before the Civil Rights movement of the 60's and 70's—was the education of America's children, poor or wealthy.

Born in 1875 to former slaves, McLeod Bethune was the 15th of 17 children. As a

young girl, unable to get an education, she committed herself to becoming well educated and making sure that other children in her situation could get an education, too.

In 1904, McLeod Bethune opened Daytona Educational and Industrial School for Negro Girls. In 1931, the school became Bethune-Cookman College.

"I remember her telling of standing in front of the (Ku Klux) Klan in 1952 when they wanted to burn down Bethune-Cookman College," Dr. Bethune said. "The students stood in the door of her home and sang. The Klan came with their torches, but they didn't burn a single building. They didn't come back."

The new Bethune center in Long Beach allows children to attend classes without any stigma or embarrassment. It minimizes the loss of education from homelessness, and helps students catch up with missed schoolwork. After a few weeks at the transitional center, most of the children enroll in classes at a regular school in the district.

LBUSD has served more than 5,000 homeless children since 1991. In 2002, the Transitional Center, a satellite of Elizabeth Hudson School, was named with Hudson as a California Distinguished School, the first in west Long Beach. Hudson is competing for the top statewide designation again this year.

"What we've known in the Long Beach Unified School District for a long time is that all children can achieve at high levels when given the right support, no matter how much the odds are stacked against them," said Chris Steinhauser, superintendent of schools. "One of the most important things we do is to give our homeless children a chance to make something better of their lives. The key to their brighter future—as Mary McLeod Bethune knew so well—is a good education."



McLeod Bethune

School Psychologist Earns State Honor

Mary Ann Seng is one of only 10 psychologists statewide who will be honored next week with the Outstanding School Psychologist Award from the California Association of School Psychologists.

"I'm shocked," Seng said. "I'm just doing my job like everyone else. All of my colleagues in Long Beach are wonderful, and they work just as hard as I do."

Seng works at Signal Hill Elementary School and has been with the school district for six years. When she was hired, she was the only Khmer-speaking school psychologist in the state. She lives with serious illness, including a seizure disorder and lupus, an autoimmune disorder that attacked her liver, kidneys, lungs and central nervous system. She has undergone kidney dialysis and two rounds of chemotherapy. Her condition is now stable.

LBUSD Senior Psychologist Tiffany Brown nominated Seng for the award, citing Seng's valuable support of families through her bilingual skills.

"In addition to her passionate work with the Cambodian community, Ms. Seng has also served the needs of a large, urban elementary school," Brown wrote in Seng's award nomination letter.

"At her school, Ms. Seng is a known voice of reason and a person who is recognized for doing whatever it takes to create a positive situation for a student," Brown stated. "She works effectively with teachers, support staff and administrators. Often, she works as a bridge between a school and a struggling student to ensure that the child has the opportunity to meet their potential."

Seng will receive her award Friday, February 17 during a conference in Monterey. She is being recognized as the top psychologist in the Southeast Los Angeles County region.

LBUSD school psychologists have now been recognized in the Southeast region for three years in a row. Brandon Gamble was recognized in 2004, and Marcie Roussos was honored in 2005.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 14 in the Millikan High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.



Seng

Parent Leadership

Parents of students with disabilities will learn ways to help their children succeed in school at the Parent Leadership Conference, Saturday, February 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Hughes Middle School.

Eight sessions will be offered, ranging from "Pathways for Completing High School," to "Setting Up Your Child for Success with Organizational Skills," to "Managing Tough Behaviors at Home." Presenters will include parents, representatives of community agencies and LBUSD special education leaders.

Interpreters for Spanish, Khmer and sign language will be provided, along with snacks and free child care.

Retirement Planning

Certificated employees interested in retirement planning are invited to attend a presentation on Tuesday, March 14 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Community Room.

Topics to be covered will include CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, updates on legislation, and disability and survivor benefits. In addition, staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

A reservation is required, as attendance is limited. RSVP by March 6 at ext. 8214.

Transfer Requests Due March 31

Human Resource Services will be accepting requests for transfer from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2006-07 school year. Transfer guidelines are contained in the TALB Agreement, Article VIII.

Transfer request forms will be available at all schools, the TALB Office and HRS during the week of February 14. Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted on the district's website. Teachers are encouraged to read about choices and interview with site personnel before submitting their requests.

Transfer requests are valid through the first seven days of the upcoming traditional school year. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 31. For information, call ext. 8257.

Summer Jobs Open

Summer school employment applications are now available for interested classified employees. A limited number of paper applications have been sent to schools and business offices throughout the district. They are also available to download from www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us under the Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index.

Employees can print out the application, complete it and return it to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave, 3rd floor, Long Beach 90813.

The 2006 summer session for elementary school is June 21 to July 21. Middle school is scheduled for June 26 to July 27. High school is June 26 to July 28. The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 17.

Kindergarten Fairs Offered to Parents

Long Beach Unified School District is offering six Kindergarten Festivals this spring to help parents understand kindergarten readiness. Parents can meet a kindergarten teacher and receive registration information. Free refreshments and activities will be provided.

The festivals will be offered on three Saturdays.

- February 25: 9 to 11 a.m. at Twain Elementary School, and 1 to 3 p.m. at Cleveland Elementary School.

- March 11: 9 to 11 a.m. at Riley Elementary School, and 1 to 3 p.m. at McKinley Elementary School.

- March 18: 9 to 11 a.m. at Webster Elementary School, and 1 to 3 p.m. at Roosevelt Elementary School.

The festivals are sponsored by the school district, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, National Council of Jewish Women, Stand For Children—Long Beach Chapter, Early Care and Education Committee and Long Beach Public Libraries.

For information, call 925-2285, ext. 122.

LBSA Celebrates

Long Beach School for Adults is joining adult schools throughout the State of California to celebrate adult education's 150th anniversary this year.

LBSA's celebration, which will highlight the history and growth of services the school has provided here for more than 100 years, will be held Wednesday, March 22 at 1 p.m. in the auditorium of the Willow campus.

LBSA is seeking the recollections of former staff members and students who attended 20 or more years ago. To contribute a memory or pass along the name of someone who may contribute, contact Joyce Inch at 595-8893 ext. 287, or by email at jinch@lbUSD.k12.ca.us.

Resignations, Leaves

Certificated employees planning to retire, resign or request leave of absence for the 2006-07 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator by Wednesday, March 1. For information, contact your site administrator.

"I leave you a thirst for education."

—Mary McLeod Bethune

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us

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Superintendent of Schools

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Exit Exam Assistance

Long Beach Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring workshop sessions to assist local high school seniors who still need to pass the California High School Exit Exam.

The Saturday morning tutoring sessions are February 11 and 25, and March 11 and 18.

Sessions will be held at nine locations in Long Beach. For information call ext. 8178.

For a list of sites, visit www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us and click on the high school exit exam news item on the home page.

Evening Teaching

Some spring semester hourly teaching positions are still available for Evening High School. Classes are held two days a week for 2.5 hours per session.

Openings are available at Cabrillo for algebra 1-2; Jordan, drivers education; Lakewood, algebra A-B development; Poly, English 7-8; and Wilson, English 7-8.

For information, call 989-7872 ext. 296.

The Job Board

- LBUSD Head Start is accepting applications for Head Start education manager. This position is responsible for planning, organizing, directing and supervising the education staff. This manager provides training and guidance and assists in evaluating teaching staff for 23 Head Start centers.

Requirements include a master's degree, preferably with a major in early childhood or elementary education, or in a related field. Applicants must hold or be eligible for the California Child Development Program Director Permit, hold a current California Teacher Credential or an Administrative Services Credential, and have at least three years of management experience supervising education staff. Call Karen Brinkman at ext. 8042.

- Gompers Elementary School seeks sixth and seventh grade GATE teachers for language arts, math, science and social studies. Gompers is also seeking a physical education teacher for sixth and seventh grades. Contact Jay Camerino, principal, at ext. 3605.

- DeMille Middle School seeks a full time woodshop (industrial arts) teacher for 2006-07. Contact Tim Spivey, principal, at ext. 4500.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for human resources assistant and transportation scheduler.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Mary Chase, facilities use technician, Purchasing;

Ralph Weil, contract analyst, Purchasing.

In Memoriam

Janie Gonzalez
instructional aide-special education, Chavez
December 25, 2005