



school bulletin

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

May 12, 2006

Poly Scholar Wins State Debate Contest

Harvard-bound Polytechnic High School PACE senior Siodhbhra Parkin won first place recently at the statewide California High School Speech Association Student Congress Competition.

The tournament was held in Rocklin, CA at Sierra College, near Sacramento. The final round of Student Congress was held in the Senate Rotunda at the State Capitol, where Parkin debated the hot topic of immigration issues related to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.



Parkin

Parkin, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, was first out of 90 competitors at the debate tournament, and best among 629 in the state in qualifying tournaments. The award comes with a \$250 scholarship.

"It was just amazing," Parkin said. "Last year I earned second place, so I returned this year with renewed vigor."

The busy senior will now go to Washington, D.C. to meet with U.S. Supreme Court justices May 15-17 as part of a Mock Trial trip sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

Parkin has earned a \$31,000-per-year scholarship to Harvard for four years. She also has completed more than a year of college credit

(Continued on back page)

State Business Group Honors Local Schools

An influential statewide business group recently honored three Long Beach Unified School District schools for high academic achievement and tremendous progress closing achievement gaps.

California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) and Carver Elementary School received the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) Star School Award, while Lowell Elementary School won the Scholar School Award.

While both awards recognize outstanding student progress, winners of the Star School Award are drawn from schools with higher numbers of students who come from disadvantaged families.

Winners were selected by carefully analyzing academic performance data for each school. Statewide, 74 Star Schools and 187 Scholar Schools were recognized.

CBEE was founded in 1999 by major corporations and business organizations to represent the business community in state education policy making.

Four High Schools Among Newsweek's Best

Newsweek's newly released annual ranking of America's top high schools includes more Long Beach Unified School District schools than ever: CAMS (California Academy of Mathematics and Science), Wilson Classical High School, Renaissance High School for the Arts and Polytechnic High School.

"To have so many high schools ranked in the top five percent of the most competitive schools in the nation is a huge achievement," said Chris Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "This is a testament to all of our high schools' heroic efforts to prepare more students for success in college and beyond."

Last year, the list included CAMS, Wilson and Poly. This year, Renaissance made the list for the first time. This is the third consecutive time that Wilson and Poly have appeared on the Newsweek list.

Newsweek ranks public schools according to a ratio that is the number of Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students at a school in 2005

divided by the number of graduating seniors. For more information, visit newsweek.com.

The Long Beach Unified School District in recent years has significantly boosted the numbers of students taking AP exams and courses. Last school year, students here took nearly 4,800 Advanced Placement exams, an increase of about 1,300 over the previous year.

This year, students are filling about 6,000 seats in AP courses, an increase of more than 3,000 during the past two years. AP courses help students earn up to a year of college credit, saving their parents thousands of dollars on tuition.

Performance by LBUSD students on AP exams now ranks higher than state, national and international averages in nine subject areas.



Millikan Energy Lessons Earn National Prize

As gasoline prices soar well beyond \$3 per gallon, a Millikan High School student project on alternative energy sources has won a national award.

The Robert A. Millikan Student Energy

Team, or RAMSET, won the National Senior Level School of the Year Award in the National Energy Education Development (NEED) competition. Millikan earned first place among similar groups in over 40 states.

The award will be presented in Washington, D.C. at the Department of the Interior during a June 23-26 conference.

The RAMSET project includes 40 students in ninth and tenth grades who are advised by science teacher Woody Williams. With the help of a \$25,000 grant from BP last year, the students began obtaining equipment and training needed to teach lessons on energy transformation, energy conservation, wind energy, solar energy and fuel cells.

The students travel in teams of three to four, visiting elementary schools, where they provide hands-on lessons on energy. The high school students have visited 45 local elementary classrooms.

The Millikan students also have worked each Saturday since December constructing a solar powered boat, which will race at Lake Skinner in Temecula this month.

"They are such great leaders," Williams said of his students. "I can't believe the hours they've put into this."

The non-profit NEED organization was started in 1980 to promote understanding of the scientific, economic and environmental impacts of energy.

RAMSET is accepting donations to assist with airline travel, registration and lodging for the students' trip to D.C. Contributions may be made to RAMSET and sent to Woody Williams care of Robert A. Millikan High School, 2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach 90815. The Federal Tax ID number is 95-4636770.



ROOSEVELT REWARDED—Roosevelt Elementary School Principal Stefanie Holzman accepts the National School Change Award from Fordham University's Lew Smith for gains in student achievement. For more information and photos, visit www.lbUSD.k12.ca.us.

Awards, BBQ Honor Classified Employees

Thirty-four classified employees have been nominated for the Classified Employee of the Year Award. The top winner and seven other finalists will be announced at noon during this year's Classified Employee Barbecue. The barbecue takes place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St. The Mardi Gras-themed event will include games and entertainment.

Employees should park at the back parking lot of the nearby Target Shopping Center on California just north of 32nd Street.

Continuous shuttles will run from the parking area to the barbecue. Parking will not be available at TRC, except for permit holders.

Employees should consider bringing a sun hat for the outdoor mid-day event.

This year's Classified Employee of the Year

Virtual Trade Fair

Long Beach Regional Occupational Program (ROP) recently hosted 650 students from throughout California in a Virtual Trade Fair at the Long Beach Convention Center.

The high school students are enrolled in virtual enterprise classes in which they set up and run simulated businesses with the aid of real-world business partners. Virtual enterprise classes are held at Cabrillo, Jordan, Millikan, Poly, Renaissance and Wilson high schools.

The 52 virtual businesses set up booths to trade goods and services using virtual money, and they competed in trade show competitions. Exhibits were scored based on professional criteria and judged by Long Beach business partners and educational leaders.

Classroom Grants

The Long Beach Junior Chamber Foundation offers the MaryPat Bamrick Adopt-a-Teacher program to provide grants to deserving teachers throughout the Long Beach Unified School District. The program has provided more than 40 grants of \$200 each over the past two years. Teachers may use the grants for additional classroom supplies.

Grant applications are available at www.lbjaycees.org. Click on Jaycees Foundation. Applications also may be requested via email at lbjcfoundation@yahoo.com. Deadline for applications is June 5.

Don't Park There

Effective June 30, the Long Beach Unified School District will no longer lease parking spaces in the Raytheon parking lot adjacent to the district Administration Building. Vehicles of district employees or visitors in that lot from July 1 forward will be subject to immediate towing at the owner's expense.

In Memoriam

Ron Dunn
former Personnel Commission director
April 26, 2006

Award nominees are Jovita Allen, Bradford Angell, Janet Bajza, Gladys Bartschi, Patricia Bell, Dominga Beltran, Tami-Jean Bent, Dianna Bisnar, Peggy Buckhalter, Glenda Clark, Lakesha Cotton, Cheryl Dennison, Leslie Eve, Susan Follmuth, Maribel Gonzalez, Ema Hajdukovic, Loretta Hargaden, Samuel Hill, Jamie Holder, Sharon Johnson, Albert Marquez, Cheryl Olson, Sherrie Opitz, Francine Pfeiffer, Jorge Quezada, Josie Quiller, Maria Ramirez, Grace Reyes, Gloria Rubio, Joseph Schessler, Kevin Sheehan, Bryan Smith, Elizabeth Velasco and Yvonne Worsley.

Crazy for Gershwin

Lakewood High School is presenting the Gershwin musical "Crazy for You" today and Saturday, May 13, at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$8.50 for general admission and \$6 for children, seniors and presale. For information, call ext. 3126.

The Job Board

- Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School is seeking a full time library/media specialist. Credentialed and non-credentialed individuals may apply. The position requires library/research skills. For information, contact Cindy Young, director, at 420-2631.

- Webster Elementary School has an opening for a K-2 Reading First coach. Experience teaching kindergarten and first grade and working with at-risk and ELL students is desired. Contact Kevin Maddox, principal, at ext. 7967.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for administrative coordinator — facilities, development and planning, assistant transportation director, braille transcriber, building maintenance worker/driver, building maintenance worker and facilities planner.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Dwight Prince	June 9	Margie Lawrence 420-9595
Ellie Steineckert	June 12	Anne McNeley 425-7461
Claudia Kreis	June 13	Louisa Hurtado (310) 518-3892

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

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

• Speech Champion

(Continued from front page)
by taking Advanced Placement courses and exams, and by enrolling in classes at Long Beach City College. The college offers the courses in a cooperative venture with the Long Beach Unified School District.

"The entire public school system has worked wonders for me," said Parkin, who attended private school at the elementary level before enrolling in the Long Beach Unified School District's Stanford Middle School and then Poly. PACE is the Program of Additional Curricular Experiences, Poly's rigorous and nationally recognized magnet program.

"Just the opportunities that have been presented to me — Mock Trial, the debate team, the student newspaper — it's all been made available to me at Poly. I would not have had the same opportunities at a private school. The teachers and everyone at Poly have been incredible. I just can't say enough good things about Poly High. Go, Jackrabbits!"

Parkin has won several other speech contests this year, including two levels of the Lions Club's Speakers Contest, and she was the overall winner at the recent Port of Long Beach Speech Contest. At the Port, she captured the top prize in the high school division and defeated all entrants from Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach.

At Harvard, Parkin plans to major in chemistry and English literature. The debate champ was coached by teacher Brett Alexander. This was Alexander's first state champion in his 13-year coaching career.

Names in the News

Jill Baker, program administrator for principal training, and **Tiffany Brown**, senior psychologist, are authors of "Pyramid of Support," a recent article in *Leadership* magazine.

Retired LBUSD counselors **Winifred Strong** and **Rubie McClure** were inducted recently into the H.B. McDaniel Foundation Hall of Fame. McDaniel was the first director of guidance and counseling for the California Department of Education.

Doris Robinson, principal at Bryant, was named Outstanding Principal for 2005-06 by the MIND Institute.

Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) for May are **Nancy Carter**, Bixby; **Jackie Deak**, Chavez; **Doris Leeper**, Roosevelt; **Veronica Llama**, International; **Mae Robinson**, Butler; and **Marie Thompson**, Stanford.

Spelling Winners

Winners of the LBUSD After-School Spelling Bee are:

First Grade: 1st-Gilberto Vuelvas, Edison; 2nd-Anthony Heredia, Addams; 3rd-Summer Williams, Roosevelt. Second Grade: 1st-Patricia Montecinos, Edison; 2nd-Manuel Corea, Addams; 3rd-Jasmine Pieceno, Lafayette. Third Grade: 1st (tie)-Iran Madrid, Edison, and Isaac Men, Lee; 2nd-Josphine Luu, Bryant; 3rd-Diara Bradley, Addams. Fourth Grade: 1st-Viemoll Noch, Whittier; 2nd-Tyra Overstreet, Addams; 3rd-Destiny Espinosa, Stevenson. Fifth Grade: 1st-Eileen Pech, Whittier; 2nd-Nichole Winslow, Lee; 3rd-Jahna Crudup, Edison.