



# school bulletin

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

October 6, 2006

## Hill Classical Earns National Blue Ribbon

Hill Classical Middle School, which only six years ago was threatened with state takeover if it didn't improve student achievement, has won the highly coveted National Blue Ribbon Award.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings named Hill among 250 schools selected as 2006 No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools. The schools were honored for high student achievement, and for closing achievement gaps among various groups of students.

"These schools show what wonderful accomplishments can be made when we focus on the bottom line in education - student achievement," Spellings said. "All of these schools have students from all subgroups who've made impressive test gains or who scored in the top tier on state tests. They are outstanding examples of how all students can achieve to higher standards."

For Hill, the award represents the culmination of a significant turnaround in student

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## Teachers of Year Inspire, Motivate Students

A Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year is among three outstanding teachers who were recently selected as Long Beach Unified School District Teachers of the Year.

Annemarie Lander, a social studies teacher at Tincher Preparatory School, is one of 16 teachers countywide to earn the top honor. She is in the running to become California Teacher of the Year.

Satinder Hawkins, an economics, psychology and world history teacher at Millikan High School, along with Beverly Moutet, language arts teacher at Tincher, and Lander earned top honors for the district.

Lander encourages extensive classroom participation. Her students are actively engaged in learning American history.

"Students are asked to think like a historian, philosopher, economist, geographer, Native

American, Union general and others to gain historical perspective," Lander said. "I have purposefully and thoughtfully set up a classroom in which students feel safe, comfortable and, most importantly, enjoy learning."

Lander invests time in getting to know her students, which helps her to assess individual learning styles and to build on students' strengths.

"Students know they can succeed in my classroom," Lander said. "A safe, lively and enjoyable environment helps make learning more meaningful, more complete and enduring."

Hawkins encourages inquisitiveness in class.

"A teacher who does the job well encourages creativity and curiosity, allowing students to discover information rather than always having it delivered to them in a gift-wrapped lecture," Hawkins said.

"I believe passionately and unabashedly in the power of public education to change the lives of those who enter, and in the power of those who enter to change the world," Hawkins added. "A strong public education system is the best gift we can give our children."

Moutet lives in the Tincher neighborhood, and her child attends the school.

"I see my students and their parents at Little League, AYSO and the local Jewish Community Center," she said.

Her accessibility helps her connect more easily with students to improve achievement.

"I am flexible, adapting my instruction according to my students' needs," Moutet said. "Often, I teach the same story or skill in four different ways, as each class has its own needs."



Lander



Hawkins



Moutet

## CAMS Called 'Shining Example' for Nation

A U.S. Department of Education official recently visited to the California Academy of Mathematics and Science and called the school "a shining example of how we can prepare our nation's students for the global economy, especially in science and technology."

The visit by Christopher Wright, a regional representative of the department, was part of the annual Back-To-School Initiative. The initiative celebrated the start of the school year with department officials traveling throughout the U.S. to recognize top schools.

"The best part of my job is when I am able to visit schools like CAMS and highlight their

success," said Wright, the U.S. Department of Education Secretary's Acting Regional Representative for Region IX.

"We're thrilled that CAMS was selected for a visit by Mr. Wright," said Principal Kathleen Clark. "The U.S. Department of Education has bent over backwards to recognize CAMS on a number of occasions. We appreciate their continued strong encouragement of our students, parents, teachers and administrators."

CAMS is a regional high school at Cal State Dominguez Hills and is run by LBUSD. In 2004, CAMS earned a National Blue Ribbon. The department has since featured CAMS in newsletters and TV programs. *Newsweek* has repeatedly ranked CAMS among America's best high schools.

CAMS serves many underrepresented groups, yet its college admission rates are among the highest in California.

## Governor Signs LBUSD's Bill on Instruction

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed into law Assembly Bill 2989 (Karnette), which will allow the Long Beach Unified School District - and other school districts throughout California - to require underperforming students to participate in supplemental instruction such as tutoring and summer school.

"We're delighted that the Governor has signed our bill, and we're extremely grateful to Assemblywoman Betty Karnette for carrying this legislation through," said Christopher J.

Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "Now we can make certain that all students have every opportunity to meet academic standards. We believe that all students can learn, and this law will help us to put that belief into action."

Steinhauser recently testified in favor of the legislation during a meeting of the Assembly Education Committee. The new law, which will take effect Jan. 1, will allow school districts to require student participation in

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## Poly Writers, Artists Take Top U.S. Prize

The American Scholastic Press Association has named Poly High School's *Acacia* as the Most Outstanding High School Literary-Art Magazine for 2006.

Poly is the only school to receive the award nationwide. Judging criteria included content coverage, organization, design, presentation and creativity.

The 65-page magazine includes poetry, artwork, non-fiction, fiction, drama, humor and satire.

*Acacia* editors included recently graduated students Samantha Child, Criselle Cruz, Jaqueline Marroquin and Albert Samreth. The magazine advisor is teacher Daniel Shere.

## • Assembly Bill

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additional instruction, or interventions, when they are not meeting standards in basic subjects.

School districts will have the ability to require Saturday school, summer school, and extra instruction both before and after school.

Long Beach Unified initiated the legislation to make sure all students have ample opportunities to meet federal and state academic standards and requirements, including passing the California High School Exit Exam.

Of the approximately 90,000 students in LBUSD, about 10,000 are eligible for supplemental instruction programs geared toward raising their academic achievement. About 90 percent of these at-risk students currently choose to participate in supplemental instruction, or interventions. AB 2989 allows the school district to require all underperforming students to participate.

The academic interventions made possible by this legislation will be implemented by the Long Beach Unified School District soon after the law takes effect in January 2007.

## Cancer Society Lauds District Collaboration

Recognizing the Long Beach Unified School District as a powerful ally in the battle against cancer, the local chapter of the American Cancer Society recently honored the district with a Collaboration Award for helping to promote community health.

The ACS Long Beach Harbor Southeast Unit presented the award at its annual meeting in Long Beach.

The award recognized the school district's development of a Health Advisory Council made up of parents, students, business and community leaders, and school staff. The school district was commended for its student and parent outreach efforts using ACS guidelines on early detection and prevention of cancer. The award also recognized the district and its health education curriculum leader, Robin Sinks, for working with many community organizations and other school districts to improve education on tobacco use prevention, nutrition, physical activity and sun protection.

## History Training

The Long Beach Unified School District recently was awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant to increase the district's capacity for teaching traditional American History in middle and high schools.

Stipends are available for teachers who want to take part in improving their skills through field experiences, history book clubs, a summer institute and monthly seminars. Applications are available from department heads or from the History Office and are to be submitted to Linda Mehlbrech, curriculum leader. For information, call ext. 2956.

## Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
LaNedra Munson	Oct. 21	Tamia Jones 428-0555

## Important Contacts

Child Abuse Hotline	800-540-4000
Emergencies	Dial 9-1-1
Fraud Hotline	1-888-Fraudalert 1888fraudalert.com
School Safety Communications	562-997-8101 (24 hours)

## Classified Classes

The Fall 2006 Classified Staff Development Training Opportunities Catalog was recently distributed to all schools and sites by the Personnel Commission.

New classes offered this semester include: "Goal Setting," "Preparing for Supervision," "Preparing for the Supervisory Interview," "Celebrate What's Right!," "Merit 101," and "The Nurse is Out."

To view the complete course listing and to register, visit the Personnel Commission's web page at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) (click Jobs, Personnel Commission, Staff Development). Classes run through January 30.

## Jordan Band Excels

Jordan High School is a finalist in the third annual Battle of the High School Marching Bands to be held Saturday, November 18 at The Home Depot Center at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Only eight bands nationwide were invited to compete.

The competition will feature celebrity judges Macy Gray, Sheila E., Miguel A. Gaetan and Verdine White.

General admission tickets are \$10, available at The Home Depot Center Box Office and online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Televised Meetings

Board of Education meetings will be televised on local cable starting this week. They will air in Long Beach and Signal Hill on Channel 24, in Lakewood on Channel 35, and in Avalon on Channel 77.

Broadcast times are 10 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Meetings also will air Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m., starting Oct. 10.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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## • Blue Ribbon School

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achievement.

"We didn't get here in one year," said Principal Peter Davis. "It took seven years to get here, with a lot of great teachers, parents and students. It's been a huge, team effort over a long period."

In recent years, Hill has emphasized writing school-wide and has implemented Malcolm Baldrige problem-solving strategies that are used by some of the nation's most successful businesses. The school also implemented a Safe and Civil Schools model that has minimized tardies and created a calm atmosphere.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at very high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

- Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests;

- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

Hill Classical Middle School is the eighth school in the Long Beach Unified School District to win this prestigious national award. Prior winners include: Lowell, Prisk and Twain elementary schools; Cubberley K-8 School; Hughes and Rogers middle schools; and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS).

The latest Blue Ribbon School winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 9-10.

## The Job Board

- To apply for the position of co-principal at Cabrillo High School, submit a resume and a letter of interest to Ruth Perez Ashley, Assistant Superintendent, HRS, by noon, Wednesday, November 1. For information, call ext. 8257.

- Mary Butler K-8 School is seeking a full-time librarian. For information, call ext. 5610.

- Longfellow Elementary School seeks a part-time (60 percent) intervention specialist to work with students in grades K-2 in the areas of language arts and math. Duties will include some facilitator responsibilities. Submit a letter of interest to Brian Moskovitz, principal, or call ext. 2630 for information.

- Lafayette Elementary School is seeking a highly skilled literacy specialist to support students needing additional assistance in the ELD and intersession small group instruction support programs. For information, call Damita Myers-Miller, principal, at ext. 7952.

## In Memoriam

**Paul Crawford**

former Personnel Commission director  
September 26, 2006

**Mary Emma Wright**

former librarian  
September 29, 2006