



# school bulletin

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

February 9, 2007

## L.B. Head Start Leader Named Best in State

Linda James-Perry, director of Long Beach Unified School District Head Start, has earned the Administrator of the Year Award from the California Head Start Association. The award is given to only one of the state's 1,927 Head Start programs.



James-Perry

"When I first found out that I had won, I was at a loss for words," said James-Perry. "Then I told our staff and parents that this is our award. I'm merely doing what I signed on to do, and to earn an award for that is humbling. It's another great honor for the Long Beach Unified School District."

The award goes to administrators for their unique contributions, outstanding qualities,

ability to motivate and inspire their staff, and their positive impact on children and families. James-Perry accepted the award at the recent California Head Start Association Conference in Newport Beach.

Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program established nationally in 1965 to alleviate the effects of poverty on preschool children and their families. In the Long Beach area, Head Start assists children and their families with preschools, Early Head Start centers and home-based services. Assistance includes education, health, nutrition, social services and parental involvement activities for families with children five years old and younger.

LBUSD Head Start earned high honors last year by meeting or exceeding more than 900 compliance items during an independent and exhaustive review. During a weeklong visit, a team of reviewers from throughout the nation perused 18 boxes of documents and interviewed parents, staff and others.

## National, International Attention Increasing

A steady stream of dozens of educators from California, the nation and abroad have lined up to visit schools and offices of the Long Beach Unified School District in recent weeks, seeking to learn about successful practices.

In just the last three weeks, educators have arrived from Chicago, Dallas, the city of Wyoming in Michigan and Fresno. Up next are educators from Oxnard, Victorville, Santa Barbara and Japan.

Chicago educators are competing for the Broad Prize for Urban Education and wanted to observe a winner of the America's Best Urban Schools honor in action.

Fresno teachers and administrators observed interventions and inclusion efforts for special education students in math and literacy.

The superintendent and other educators from Wyoming, MI, observed ways to increase achievement for all students, including English Language Learners.

The team from Dallas included selected representatives serving on their Educational Commission. The goal in Dallas is to become a Broad Prize winner, and the team researched Long Beach's success in raising student achievement through professional development, data collection and research.

Victorville, Oxnard and Japanese educators are interested in local schools' use of Malcolm Baldrige continuous improvement strategies, which are used by some of the nation's leading businesses to boost efficiency and performance. Oxnard teachers and administrators also will meet with leaders and coaches from the math, history and language arts offices, and they will research English Language Development strategies in science.

Santa Barbara's team will research English pre-Advanced Placement, English Language Learner and math curricula, Advancement Via Individual Determination college readiness efforts, and multi-media technology.

## Long Beach Among Top U.S. Cities for Youth

Long Beach was recently named one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People in the United States by America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth.

The 100 Best list showcases cities and communities across the country that tackle challenges and demonstrate innovative efforts to deliver five promises that young people need to succeed – caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, effective education and opportunities to help others.

More than 750 communities nationwide entered the 2007 competition.

"Nothing is more important than seeing

that our children and youth have the resources and support systems they need to thrive and succeed," said America's Promise Founding Chairman General Colin L. Powell. "When a community provides all that its young people need to be healthy and secure, they deserve to be honored and showcased as an outstanding example of what it takes to successfully nurture this nation's youth."

100 Best Communities for Young People was first launched in 2005 by General Powell, in partnership with Capital One Financial Corporation. Other partners in the America's  
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## District Honors STAR Elementary Schools

The Board of Education recently recognized 21 elementary schools with STAR Awards for significant gains in student achievement, surpassing last year's record of 18 schools.

Naples won the award for the fifth year.

Four schools were honored for the fourth time: Burbank, Keller, Lowell and Signal Hill.

Eleven schools were three-year recipients: Addams, Alvarado, Barton, Buffum, Edison, Emerson, Kettering, Longfellow, Los Cerritos, Madison and Muir.

Five schools were two-year winners: Burcham, King, Riley, Twain and Webster.

The STAR Award (Student success Terrific teaching Academic Results) is based upon four critical components:

- Tripling the state Academic Performance Index growth target;
- Meeting all aspects of federal Adequate Yearly Progress criteria;
- Advancing the achievement of the lowest performing sub-group of students at the school;
- Advancing the achievement of English Language Learners at the school.

Students, staff and parents from the winning schools participated in the awards ceremony. Among the participants was articulate Barton first grader Simone Abdur-Rahim, who told the Board, "I am a star at Barton because I am a scholar and always searching for more information and asking big questions."

## State Superintendent Praises Lee School

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell stated in his February 6 State of Education Address:

"Schools that are making progress closing the achievement gap are schools that have infused their culture not only with high academic expectations but with high expectations for character and behavior. Walk into a school that has made strong academic achievement gains, a school like Lee Elementary School in Long Beach, and you'll see students who respect themselves and their classmates as scholars. You'll see words like 'responsibility,' 'integrity,' and 'commitment' prominently displayed."

The complete address can be found at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

## Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Tuesday, February 13, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer.

## • Cities for Youth

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Promise Alliance — including United Way of America, U.S. Conference of Mayors, YMCA of the USA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, National Association of Counties and many others — took leading roles in encouraging communities to compete in the 2007 contest.

The 100 Best competition salutes what's good about America — people coming together to tackle challenges and build strong communities that nurture children. It is a proven fact that when communities come together and keep the Five Promises to young people, children lead more productive, happier and healthier lives. Youth who benefit from the five promises perform better in school and are more likely to pursue a higher education.

## Teacher Transfers

Human Resource Services will be accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2007-08 school year.

Transfer request forms will be available at all schools, the TALB Office and the HRS Office during the week of February 13. Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted on the district's website. Teachers are encouraged to read about schools and their special programs before submitting their requests.

Transfer requests are valid through the end of the first seven days of the following traditional school year. Deadline to apply is Friday, March 30. For information, call ext. 8257.

## Teach in Japan

An information meeting for teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach's sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for two years beginning in August, will be held Wednesday, February 28 at 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way.

Applications will be available at the meeting as well as representatives from the Long Beach Yokkaichi committee to answer questions.

## The Job Board

• Gompers is seeking a Spanish/Computer/ Electives teacher and GATE middle school teachers for English, math, science, social studies and PE. Call ext. 3605 for details.

• Muir is accepting applications for the position of computer lab teacher. The applicant must be proficient with Apple computers, understand networking, know how technology can enhance learning, and work well with teachers and students. Contact Jerry Gloria at ext. 7960 or jgloria@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for assistant purchasing and contracts director, buyer, contract manager, groundskeeper, instructional aide-instrumental music, instructional assistant-Ballet Folklorico bilingual Spanish, plant supervisor I, plant supervisor II, plant supervisor high school, site specialist-Special Projects and student evaluation technician bilingual Khmer.

## Tool Sharpener Gives Back to Community

Long Beach Unified School District tool sharpener James Duessent was recognized for his many years of community volunteerism in a recent edition of *Focus*, the statewide magazine of the California School Employees Association.

In a cover story, "The Joy of Service," Duessent was noted for being active in the Belmont Shores Lions Club for more than 22 years. The club is known for collecting eyeglasses for needy people.

Duessent also belongs to the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas — a group of men with real, white beards who spread the joy of the holiday season to kids nationwide.

Duessent encourages other employees to give back to their neighbors.

"Be involved in your community. Make a difference," he said. "It's up to each individual to do what is good for the community."

## Summer School Jobs

Certificated applications for summer positions will be available at all schools and business offices on February 16. Employees will also be able to download application materials from [TeachLongBeach.com](http://TeachLongBeach.com) under the area of "For Current Employees."

Summer session for elementary school is June 25 to July 27; middle school is June 25 to July 26 (Mondays through Thursdays); and high school is June 25 to July 27.

For certificated positions, applications for School for Adults should be submitted to School for Adults, and applications for ROP should be submitted to ROP. Applications for other certificated positions should be submitted to Human Resource Services, Attn: Summer School. Deadline is Friday, March 16.

Applicants for certificated positions must have received satisfactory evaluations and hold a valid, up-to-date credential for the level or subject to be taught. Hours taught during summer school will count for STRS credit.

For classified positions, paper applications have been sent to sites and are also available on the Personnel Commission website, accessible at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us).

Employees can print out the application, complete and return it to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave, 3rd floor, Long Beach 90813. Deadline is Friday, March 16.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## Choir Trip Donations

The 2007 LBUSD High School Honor Choir has been invited to represent Southern California at America's 400th Anniversary Celebration in Jamestown, VA, May 10 to 14.

The celebration marking the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 will culminate in a concert on Sunday, May 13. The 80 LBUSD students have been asked to join a talented group of performers from the nation's top choirs representing each of the 50 states.

The group is raising funds to make this once-in-a-lifetime trip possible. To donate, contact James Petri, ext. 8175.

## Future Administrators

Are you thinking about a career in administration but still need to obtain your administrative credential and/or masters degree? Are you up to the challenge of a fast-tracked program? If so, a new Administrative Credential Cohort program may help.

Up to 20 qualified LBUSD employees will be selected to participate in this 2007-08 cohort and, at the end of summer 2008, will possess administrative credentials.

Program participants will receive LBUSD-sponsored monthly release time to complete field assignments, shadow mentor administrators, attend LBUSD administrator professional development and interview for administrative vacancies as they occur.

An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. in the Hill Middle School library. Contact the Leadership Development Office at [cstockinger@lbusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:cstockinger@lbusd.k12.ca.us) for a flyer.

## Names in the News

**Demetrice Parks**, a senior at Poly, was honored as Play It Smart Student-Athlete of the Month by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame. Another Poly senior, **Alfred Hines**, was among the nominees for the same award.

**Maria Ramirez**, senior at Jordan, won first place in the 70th Annual High School Student Speech Competition hosted by the Lions Club of Long Beach. Maria recently served on a citywide panel on race relations.

## Leave of Absence

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2007-08 school year should submit the appropriate form by Thursday, March 1.

Forms are available from site secretaries or from the district website at Human Resource Services — Current Employees.

## In Memoriam

**Alice Hujing**  
former school bus driver  
January 23, 2007

**Mary Ellen Newman**  
former teacher  
January 30, 2007