



school bulletin

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

December 15, 2006



LIVE FROM LEBANON – Millikan High School senior Crystal Anderson, left, and teacher Matt Johnson speak live via video conference with high school students in Beirut. Above, the Millikan students watch their own class on the left TV screen while viewing Beirut students on the right screen. The students learned about each other's culture and made pledges for peace in their communities and in the world.

Economics Teacher Named Best in U.S.

Gregory Fisher, teacher at California Academy of Mathematics and Science, has won the Teacher of the Year award from the Global Association of Teachers of Economics. Only one award was given nationally to a high school teacher.

Fisher's hands-on style of teaching and use of vivid examples of abstract concepts—he squeezes an orange, getting progressively less juice even as he squeezes harder, to acquaint students with the idea of marginal utility and diminishing returns—has led to outstanding work from students in CAMS classrooms and in interscholastic competition.

"There's a difference between teaching something and teaching *about* something," Fisher said. "I teach it—direct, hands-on, lessons and metaphors so that students are engaged."

CAMS teams have fared well in recent years in the Capital Markets contest conducted by the Federal Reserve Board. "It's basically analyzing the U.S. economy and making recommendations and proposals that demonstrate their understanding," Fisher said.

Students in his classes are invited to take what they learn and go beyond the classroom with it. A class project that has proven popular is the Econ Variety Show. Students pair up and prepare a one-hour economics lesson that they then present at their former elementary or middle school.

Another popular event is the Successful Investor Program, which takes place each May. (Continued on back page)



Fisher

Millikan, Lebanon Connect Live Via Video

Students at Millikan High School recently participated in a live video conference with students in Lebanon to build cultural understanding and promote peace.

The Empower Peace Foundation's two-hour video conference brought together seniors from a philosophy class at Millikan with high school students in Beirut.

"One of the biggest lessons the students learned was that they shared so much in common, both culturally and in terms of their interests," said Nader Twal, Millikan teacher and past winner of the Milken National Educator Award, or the "Oscar Award" of teaching.

Twal and fellow teacher Matt Johnson had worked with the Millikan students to explain recent events in Lebanon, where renewed strife has raised the specter of civil war after years of relative tranquility and economic growth.

"The kids in our class are awesome," Johnson said shortly after the morning video conference. "Wow. I would describe this feeling right now as a caffeine high."

The Millikan philosophy class is part of the school's PEACE smaller learning community (Personal success through Empowerment, Academic achievement, Conflict resolution and Ethics in action).

PEACE is one of several smaller learning communities designed to personalize education at Millikan. These smaller learning communities will be a key part of a Pathways to Higher Education plan developed by the school. The plan was approved recently by the Board of Education to increase the percentage of students completing A-G requirements needed for admission to the University of California and California State University systems.

Empower Peace, which sponsored the videoconference, is a non-profit organization

committed to building bridges of respect and understanding between youth in the United States and the Arab and Muslim world.

During the video conference, students shared their thoughts and dreams for the future. They discussed popular culture, shared videos of their daily lives and made pledges for peace in their communities and in the world. Thousands of other students around the world watched the broadcast on the Internet.

"Welcome to Lebanon," began the video conference with Lebanese journalist Sarah Khoury. "What we're doing today is so important. By engaging in conversation and sharing our thoughts, hopes and ideas, we can build bridges of understanding between cultures and most important, we can establish the foundation for new friendships."

Famed Historian Provides Training, Autographs

Acclaimed U.S. historian and best-selling author Robert Dallek visited last week with Jordan High School students and staff. Dallek later presented a session on the American presidency to about 75 teachers at the Long Beach Unified School District's Professional Learning Center.

"It was a great opportunity for our kids to be exposed to such a level of brilliance," said David Coop, a U.S. history teacher at Jordan, where Dallek answered students' questions

and, upon request, signed autographs. "He's one of the great American historians," Coop said.

An expert on the American presidency, Dallek is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the landmark biography, *An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963*. Dallek has authored several books on foreign policy and on presidents Lyndon Johnson and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dallek's book, *American Foreign Policy*, won the prestigious Bancroft Prize. He has taught at Columbia, UCLA and Oxford universities.

Portions of the history textbooks used by local students were written by Dallek, who provides professional development sessions to teachers who use the books.



Dallek

• Economics Teacher

(Continued from front page)

Teams of students develop a product and a business plan and then seek funding from guest judges who include representatives of venture capital firms.

Product ideas over the years have included disposable toothbrushes—before they were successfully introduced in the real world—smart parking lots, radar systems, websites and public health innovations. The lessons help students understand the economics that can lead to a successful proposal and rollout of a new product or service.

The guest judges have come away impressed by the high school students' work, comparing it favorably to similar projects completed by local university students.

After receiving his award this fall at a banquet in New York, Fisher flew on to the Baltic state of Lithuania for a 10-day observational study tour of economics teaching in that country.

Fisher also has participated in a month-long exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State to teach for a month in Ukraine.

Kindergarten Fairs

Kindergarten Festivals are coming to four local schools, bringing useful information for parents of students who will soon enter the school system.

Festivals will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on four separate Saturdays: January 27 at Renaissance High School, February 24 at Powell Academy, March 31 at Stephens Middle School and April 21 at Hill Middle School.

The free festivals will allow children and parents to meet a kindergarten teacher and learn ideas for kindergarten success. Refreshments and registration information for incoming 2007 kindergartners will be provided. For information, call ext. 8415.

Aspiring Principals

Interested in becoming a principal in the Long Beach Unified School District? All current district managers who possess an administrative credential are invited to apply to the newly developed LBUSD Aspiring Principals' Program.

Twenty current LBUSD managers will be selected through an application, simulation and interview process to participate in five days of principal shadowing and ongoing professional development this spring, to further their leadership skill development. This program will be conducted annually, and a parallel program for aspiring assistant principals is being planned for late spring or summer.

Questions should be directed to Kristi Kahl at kkahl@lbusd.k12.ca.us. To request an information/application packet, send an e-mail to cstockinger@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

The Job Board

Lincoln Elementary School is seeking a full-time Reading First coach to support K-1 teachers. For information, call Cecilia Camerino, principal, at ext. 5640.

Nominate Teachers For National Honor

Do you know a teacher who is an outstanding citizen in your community? To help that teacher's school earn \$5,000, you may nominate that person for the MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award.

The award recognizes middle school and high school teachers who are strengthening their schools and surrounding communities. Students, parents, educators and community members are encouraged to nominate a teacher who is making an impact beyond their school to improve the community.

Fay Tracy, a teacher at Newcomb Academy, earned the MetLife award in 2005.

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 14. For information about the award, visit www.ncl.org/metlife/index.html.

Job Share Deadlines

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2007-08 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

- January 16 — Submission of written request to have name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

- March 1 — Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Items are to be submitted to Human Resource Services. For information, call Karen Ensich, ext. 8442.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Elizabeth Aja, speech-language pathology assistant, The Willows;

Ray Barnum, electronics technician, Maintenance;

Joy Dowell, middle school office supervisor, Bancroft;

Danilo Legaspi, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Nutrition Services;

Larry Quiroz, instructional assistant intensive behavioral treatment, Special Education;

Irene Santacruz, school community worker bilingual Spanish, Roosevelt.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Education Celebration

Education Celebration will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, January 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

Combining the features of an exposition and a community festival, Education Celebration is a major draw to the public, attracting thousands of people each year. Families have the opportunity to visit the booths of every K-8 school in the district. They can also learn about magnet schools, GATE, School for Adults, after-school child care, special education and other services.

Free buses will run from Lakewood High School at 8:30 a.m., Jordan High School at 8:45 and 9:45 a.m., Millikan High School at 8:25 a.m., Wilson High School at 8:35 a.m. and Poly High School at 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. Buses depart Cabrillo at noon and return to pick-up locations. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

125 Plan Enrollment

Open Enrollment for the Section 125 Flexible Spending Account (FSA) ends Tuesday, December 19.

FSA Open Enrollment packets were mailed to employees' homes and should have been received by now. If not, contact Fringe Benefits Management Company immediately at (800) 342-8017 to obtain enrollment information. FBMC is the district's FSA administrator.

Dates to Remember

January

1	New Year's Day
1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities
5	Dr. George Washington Carver Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"I Have A Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"I Have A Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Adventures in Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
21	World Religion Day
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
24	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Dare To Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:20, 12:20—"First Moon, Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
29	Fall Semester Ends
30	Spring Semester Begins
31	First of Muharram (Islamic New Year)
31	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Thomas Edison," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8

In Memoriam

Norm Klopp
custodial supervisor, Muir
November 29, 2006

Lynne Lynch
former teacher
December 10, 2006