



school bulletin

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

June 1, 2007

High Schools Again Make Newsweek's Best

Newsweek's annual ranking of America's top high schools includes four schools in the Long Beach Unified School District, all of them making repeat appearances on the prestigious list: CAMS (California Academy of Mathematics and Science), Wilson Classical High School, Renaissance High School for the Arts, and Polytechnic High School.

The annual list represents only the top 5 percent of all U.S. public high schools, reporter Jay Mathews explains at newsweek.com. To determine the rankings, *Newsweek* takes the total number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests given at a school in May, and divides by the number of seniors graduating in May or June.

"To send a student off to college without

having had an AP or IB course and test is like insisting that a child learn to ride a bike without ever taking off the training wheels," Mathews writes.

All four LBUSD schools in the 2007 rankings also appeared on last year's list.

Record numbers of students here have enrolled in AP courses this year, helping them to earn college credit while still in high school and potentially saving their parents thousands of dollars on college tuition. A total of 4,094 students have enrolled in AP courses for the 2006-07 school year, up from 2,309 in 2000-01. Performance by LBUSD students on AP exams now ranks higher than state averages in seven subjects.

The number of students in AP courses has increased steadily here, including for each of the district's major ethnic and racial groups.



Holthe, Barham Tie for Employee of the Year

Food Service supervisor Jay Holthe and school secretary Joanne Barham both accepted the Classified Employee of the Year Award at the annual employee barbecue, where hundreds of colleagues cheered the unprecedented tie.

Holthe works at Emerson Parkside Academy

"I'm deeply honored," Holthe said upon accepting the honor. "I work at a wonderful place. I love Emerson. I've learned a lot from Nutrition Services. We really work hard to take care of the children and feed them."

Barham works at Bixby Elementary School. "I'm just speechless," Barham told her col-

leagues. "I love the school. I love Long Beach Unified, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. And I love the children."

Holthe's principal, Mark Andreatta, commended the café supervisor for helping to create a warm and comfortable environment in the Emerson cafeteria, where flowers adorn the tables, a woodland mural covers the walls, and students listen to music during meals.

"A kindergartner told his parents, 'They don't have a cafeteria at the school. They have a restaurant for kids!'" Andreatta wrote in the nomination form. Holthe earned praise for
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National Broad Prize Reviewers Impressed

National education experts came away impressed after four days of visiting schools and central offices recently to help determine whether the Long Beach Unified School District will win the national Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The school district is one of five finalists for the \$1 million Broad Prize, the largest education prize in the nation given to school districts. Long Beach is the first former winner since the prize began in 2002 to return as a finalist.

"That is an incredible story and one that people around the country are watching carefully," said Erica Lepping, Broad Foundation spokesperson and former press secretary for U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley. "Can a former winner of The Broad Prize win again?"

As a finalist, LBUSD will receive at least \$125,000 in scholarships for graduating high school seniors and will compete for a total of \$500,000 in scholarships. In all, \$1 million in scholarships goes to the finalists and top winner. The award honors urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.

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Lepping

Poly Honor Student Climbs Mt. Everest

Samantha Larson, Poly High School Class of 2006, became one of the youngest people to climb Mt. Everest last month, reaching the summit with her father, David Larson, an anesthesiologist at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

The Poly honors graduate delayed her start at Stanford University by a year to pursue the Everest climb. At 18, she is thought to be the youngest to conquer the Seven Summits, the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

"It was just so incredible," Samantha told the *L.A. Times*. "It was a beautiful day so the views were fantastic." She was looking forward to a real bed and a hot shower.

"It's definitely the hardest thing I have ever done," she told ABC News. "Much harder than any of the other summits."

Larson's accomplishment attracted news coverage from hundreds of media outlets worldwide. She appeared on *Good Morning America* and was offered TV appearances by Jay Leno, David Letterman and others.



NATIONAL EXAMPLE -- Signal Hill Elementary School students Melvina Green, Deyvion Wells and Jasmine Niles accept the National School Change Award from Fordham University for the school's significant and sustained improvement in student achievement. Looking on are Superintendent of Schools Chris Steinhauer and the school's principal, Karen Williams. Only six schools nationwide received the honor after competing among 127 nominees from throughout the United States.



ALOHA SPIRIT — Classified Employee of the Year Award winners Joanne Barham and Jay Holthe are congratulated by Superintendent of Schools Chris Steinhauser at a luau-themed employee barbecue. Barham works long hours as secretary at Bixby Elementary School. Holthe, a food service supervisor, has helped transform the cafeteria at Emerson Parkside Academy into a welcoming "restaurant for kids."

• Classified Employee of the Year Awards

(Continued from front page) communicating regularly with the school counselor when students show changes in behavior or eating habits, so that the counselor can address any problems. She donates money for activities designed to promote healthy eating, and she works with certificated staff to analyze data and continually improve the school.

Many of Barham's colleagues wrote of the

Graduation Schedule

Poised to receive their diplomas this month are 5,023 local high school seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Poly and Poly Accelerated Academy of Learning (PAAL) have the largest combined graduating class with 978 seniors. Lakewood will award 823 diplomas; Wilson, 815; Millikan, 673; Jordan, 662; Cabrillo, 563; CAMS, 146; EPHS, 142; Renaissance, 86; School for Adults, 63; Avalon, 42; and Reid, 30.

CAMS will hold its graduation Wednesday, June 6. Cabrillo will award diplomas Tuesday, June 12. Jordan and Poly/PAAL will conduct ceremonies on Wednesday, June 13. Avalon, Lakewood, Millikan, Renaissance and Wilson will award diplomas on Thursday, June 14. EPHS conducts graduation on Friday, June 15, and School for Adults conducts its ceremony Wednesday, June 20.

Scheduled to present diplomas are:

Avalon—Board of Education President Jon Meyer, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Casino; **Cabrillo**—Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **CAMS**—Board of Education Member Michael Ellis, 6 p.m., Home Depot Center; **EPHS**—Board of Education Member Mary Stanton, 1 p.m., Lakewood Auditorium; **Jordan**—Board of Education Member Mary Stanton, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Lakewood**—Board of Education Member David Barton, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **School for Adults**—Board of Education Member Michael Ellis, 6 p.m., Wilson Auditorium; **Millikan**—Board of Education Member David Barton, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**—Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Renaissance**—Board of Education Member Michael Ellis, 6 p.m., Long Beach City College Auditorium; **Wilson**—Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 5:30 p.m., Stephens' Field (Wilson Stadium).

long hours she works.

"She never says no. She has a huge heart and truly lives to see the kids happy," wrote teacher Susan Scott. Fellow teacher Jane Compton wrote, "She sets the tone for our school — cheerful and welcoming."

The two winners were among 64 employees, including 10 finalists, competing. The eight other finalists announced at the barbecue were: Millikan grounds supervisor Gilbert Breitman; Cleveland instructional aide for deaf and hard of hearing students Carey Flake; Poly instructional aide-special Karen Gross; Cubberley plant supervisor Samuel Hill; Hamilton instructional aide-special Michael Jones, Jr.; LBSA campus security officer Fred Nathan; Wilson instructional aide-special Antoinette (Toni) Rouch; and McKinley instructional assistant-computer resources Thanh Van.

Dates to Remember

June	
5	Fireworks Safety Month
5	World Environment Day
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
10	Race Unity Day
10-14	National History Week
10-14	National History Day Contest
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
14	Flag Day
14	Last Day of School, Students—Traditional
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Independence Day(s)," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
15	Last Day of School, Teachers—Traditional
17	Fathers Day
18	First American Woman in Space Anniversary
21	First Day of Summer

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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• Broad Prize

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Lepping, during a tour at Hill Classical Middle School, praised the school district's "great story of perseverance," which she compared to that of cycling legend Lance Armstrong. Despite significant challenges, Armstrong not only won the top honor in his profession, but repeated the accomplishment several times. She noted the school district's increased student enrollment in Advanced Placement college prep courses.

"Your AP participation rates are skyrocketing for African American and Hispanic students," Lepping said.

Fellow reviewer Megan Tupa said extensive training is among the greatest contributing factors to improved student achievement here, often in the form of "coaches" and others who provide support to teachers. She and her team interviewed several teachers.

"What we heard from the teachers is that these (coaches) are an ongoing resource to improve teaching," Tupa said.

LBUSD won the prize in 2003 and was a finalist in 2002. The 2007 winner will be announced September 18 in Washington, D.C.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Charlene Lee, Margaret Hess & Geri Kornmann	June 5	Lori Gamble ext. 4650
Kathy (Johnson) Thompson	June 6	Carol Howey ext. 3145
Bill Colby	June 7	Kathy Taing 505-5759
Felicia Ward	June 15	Donna Snyder 420-2631, ext. 303
Rich Cassman	June 13	Mattie Shaw ext. 1579
Lawrence Clark	June 29	Jennifer Bolling 591-7477
Karen Parker	July 11	Lorraine Fiori ext. 5655

The Job Board

• Stanford Middle School is seeking a seventh grade science teacher for 2007-08. This individual will be teaching GATE sections one semester and AVID pupils the next. Contact Kathy Cruz, principal, at either ext. 4530 or kcruz@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Lafayette Elementary School is looking for a full-time Reading First/Open Court coach and a full-time literacy instructional specialist. For information, contact Damita Myers-Miller, principal, at dmyersmiller@lbusd.k12.ca.us or ext. 7952.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for business services administrator and financial services officer.

In Memoriam

Matilda Loares
 retired CDC teacher
 May 13, 2007