



school bulletin

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

April 20, 2007

National Study: LBUSD 'Beating the Odds'

Significant gains in student achievement by students in the Long Beach Unified School District are highlighted in a new national report, *Beating the Odds*, released by the Washington, D.C.-based Council of the Great City Schools.

Long Beach is listed among the nation's big-city school districts that continue to improve in reading and mathematics on state-mandated tests, with evidence of demographic achievement gaps narrowing, and lower performing students making gains.

Long Beach is especially noted for achievement gains in fourth grade math and reading.

The study contained encouraging news for many of the nation's large urban school systems. The report showed that students in 67 major city school systems in 37 states posted substantially higher test scores in 2006 than in 2002 in fourth-and eighth-grade mathematics and reading on state assessments.

"Urban schools are clearly increasing the numbers of students scoring above proficiency levels and decreasing the numbers at the lowest, contributing to overall progress where America wants it most," said Council Executive Director Michael Casserly. Visit www.cgcs.org for more information.



NEXT UP: EVEREST — Samantha Larson, Poly High School Class of '06, is poised to become the youngest person ever to climb each continent's highest summit. She has climbed six of the seven and is attempting Everest this month. Larson deferred admission to Stanford University for a year to pursue her goal. Here, she climbs the highest peak in Antarctica, 16,065-foot Vinson Massif. Track her Everest climb at www.samanthalarson.com.

Rogers, Stanford Named Distinguished Schools

Rogers and Stanford middle schools have won the state's top honor for public schools, the 2007 California Distinguished School Award. The two schools are among 171 statewide winners announced this week by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

Both Rogers and Stanford are prior winners of the award. They are now eligible to apply for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

"These schools have shown they are able to meet the challenge of providing their students with the kind of rigorous education that is essential to their future success in the classroom and the workplace," O'Connell said. He described the winning schools as "extraordinary places with devoted teachers, dedicated staff, and motivated principals."

This year's winners represent about 7 percent of California's nearly 2,400 middle and high schools. Of those, only 478 schools met the eligibility criteria based on their student achievement. Of these, 279 schools chose to submit an application, describing in-depth their curriculum, instructional program, support for

students and school climate.

Applications underwent intensive evaluation conducted by the California Department of Education in partnership with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, and with the help of many local educators from across the state. Finally, all nominee schools were reviewed during a site validation conducted by a team of external educators.

"A lot of hours were put into this award application," said Rogers Principal Thomas Huff, "but when the evaluation team comes out and validates what you're doing, that makes it all worthwhile for staff, students and parents."

Huff said he gives much of the credit to Rogers' teachers and other staff.

"The teachers expect good things from the kids, and they came through. Staff is in the trenches every day, and they filled out the application. This is only my second year here, so they know the ins and outs of Rogers more than I do."

Stanford Principal Kathleen Cruz credited
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Psychologists Win Statewide Honors

Three school psychologists from the Long Beach Unified School District accepted state honors at a recent convention for the California Association of School Psychologists (CASP).

Brandon Gamble was named Outstanding School Psychologist in the state and has been nominated for National Outstanding School Psychologist through the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Gamble was honored for providing high quality services to the students of Cabrillo High School and to the city of Long Beach.

Tom Sopp won the Outstanding School Psychologist Award for South and East Los Angeles County. A school psychologist from LBUSD has won this award for the past four years. Sopp was recognized for his work with students at Bancroft Middle School, and for supporting the Connections Adolescent Day Treatment Program.

Enrique Saldana earned the Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates responsiveness to the diverse ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the student population. A student at Loyola Marymount University, Saldana is completing his fieldwork at Cabrillo and at Whittier Elementary School.

Social Workers Gain State, National Attention

A presentation by school social workers from the Long Beach Unified School District at a national conference this week was moved to one of the largest conference rooms available to accommodate the number of social workers across the nation who are interested in Long Beach's approach to meeting students' needs.

The presentation, "Making Yourself Visible, Viable, and Virtually Impossible to Do Without," was part of the School Social Worker Association of America conference in Orlando, Fla.

Meanwhile, Long Beach has been selected by Los Angeles County school social workers to host the inaugural California Association of School Social Work State Conference, "Creating Hope: Strengthening Our Children, Families and Schools." The state conference

will take place October 11-13.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, local school social workers presented facts and figures on their efforts to serve students, many of whom must overcome serious obstacles at home, at school or in their neighborhoods.

Social workers and interns under their supervision serve as liaisons between home and school, providing key support to students and their families through counseling, crisis intervention, assessment, referrals to community agencies and other means.

During the 2006-07 fall semester, more than 1,200 students were referred for school social worker services. To meet the needs of those referred, the social workers provided interventions that included 68 counseling groups, 461 home visits, 246 classroom presentations and 40 parenting classes.

• Distinguished

(Continued from front page)
strong parental support, a knowledgeable, mostly veteran staff and superb training for newer teachers.

"This has been a long time coming, and it's due to a lot of different people investing in our school over many years," Cruz said. "Our staff and parents and kids have worked hard, and we're excited."

The 2007 California Distinguished Schools will be honored on Friday, May 18 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

Parent Summit

Preschool, elementary, middle and high school parents and students are invited to attend the LBUSD's eleventh annual Parent Summit at Lakewood High School on Saturday, April 28. Check-in begins at 8 a.m., and the General Assembly will convene at 9 a.m. Workshops will be from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and will be followed by lunch, entertainment and door prizes. From 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. a community fair will be held in the quad. City, county and non-profit agencies will share valuable information with participants.

Workshop topics include information on preparing students for college, financial aid and scholarships, gifted programs, transitioning between grade levels, special education, study skills, behavior modification and cultural awareness, computer skills, career and technology education, and gang awareness.

Workshops will be offered in English, Spanish and Khmer. The event is free, and transportation and childcare will be provided.

Registration forms are available at all schools. Late registration is being accepted until Thursday, April 26. For more information, contact Sharon Lazo-Nakamoto at 981-8990 or Martha Ensminger at ext. 7293.

Credential Current?

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. The State of California does not allow a single minute of service without the valid credential or permit. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in California public school districts.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires all clear, professional and professional clear credential holders to renew their credentials online effective January 1, 2007. The process requires access to the Internet and payment by VISA or MasterCard. Go to <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov> and select "Renew Credential." Employees who have questions about their credentials may contact a credential services specialist for assistance at ext. 8008.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Kathleen Clark	May 15	Janice Filer (310) 243-2025
Shirley Ammon	May 22	Laura Rose ext. 3620

Local Schools Show Growth on State API

The state's latest round of student performance data shows steady, continued improvement by local schools. The Long Beach Unified School District's median Academic Performance Index of 750 is up by 14 points over last year, a rate of growth that surpasses that of the state. The state's ultimate target for all schools is 800, a benchmark that 25 schools here have now achieved, up by eight schools compared to the prior year.

The API reflects a school's composite academic achievement from a variety of statewide assessments, including the California High School Exit Exam and other state tests measuring knowledge and skills in language arts, math, science and history.

The recent state reports reflect a recalibration of the API results previously reported in August 2006 based on the addition of results from the 2006 science assessments in grades eight and ten.

Verify Dependents

During the month of April, the Risk Management Office is verifying the eligibility of dependents covered by district-sponsored benefit plans. By making sure only eligible dependents are receiving benefits, costs for benefits districtwide can be controlled.

A letter was sent to all employees, at their home addresses, explaining how the verification process works. The letter also includes a confirmation form that needs to be signed and returned to Ceridian Benefits Service Center no later than April 30, 2007. Employees will have an opportunity to drop dependents who don't meet eligibility requirements from coverage, with no penalty at this time.

Employees should return their forms promptly. Dependents of employees who do not return a confirmation form by April 30 will lose their coverage as of May 31.

The Job Board

• Roosevelt Elementary School is looking for full-time Open Court coaches for grades K-1 and 2-3. For information, contact Stefanie Holzman, principal, at ext. 5650 or at sholzman@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

• Marshall Middle School is seeking a GATE/EXCEL English/language arts teacher. Contact Sherryl Johnson, principal, at ext. 4520 to schedule an interview.

• The California Academy of Mathematics and Science is accepting resumes and letters of interest for engineering teacher and counselor positions. Applicants for either full-time position should email dpendleton@lbusd.k12.ca.us. Deadline to submit documents is April 27.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for certified occupational therapy assistant-licensed.

E-Waste Recycling

Safely dispose of unneeded electronic equipment and other e-waste at local high schools during the next two Saturdays.

E-waste may be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 at Cabrillo, Lakewood and Poly high schools and on Saturday, April 28 at Jordan, Millikan and Wilson high schools. Goodwill trucks in the parking lots will be the collection points.

Nominate the Best

Nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award are due by Friday, April 27. Nomination forms and information are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us (see Personnel Commission in the alphabetical index).

Dates to Remember

May		
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month	
	Better Hearing & Speech Month	
	National Sight-Saving Month	
	National Physical Fitness & Sports Month	
1	Law Day	
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8	
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Paper Sculpture," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
5	Cinco de Mayo	
6-12	Teacher Appreciation Week	
6-12	Be Kind to Animals Week	
6-12	National Music Week	
8	National Teacher Day	
8	World Red Cross Day	
8	VE Day	
9	National School Nurse Day	
9	California Day of the Teacher	
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Southeast Asia: How Does Change Occur?" (Asian/Pacific Cultures), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
12	Day of Non-Violence	
13	Mothers Day	
13-19	Reading Is Fun Week	
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Total War" (Memorial Day), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
19	Armed Forces Day	
20-26	Classified School Employee Week	
20-26	Teacher Appreciation Week	
20-26	National Education Bosses' Week	
23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00	— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
28	Memorial Day	
30	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
31	World No-Tobacco Day	

In Memoriam

Norman Klopp Jr.
plant supervisor, Muir
November 29, 2006

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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