



school bulletin

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

May 16, 2008



FLEXIBLE FUNDING – Superintendent Chris Steinhauser meets with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell during a recent visit at Poly High School. O'Connell is working with Long Beach and the State Board of Education to provide additional flexibility in how the school district uses state funds.

State Board OKs Flexible Funding for LBUSD

The California State Board of Education has unanimously approved an innovative pilot project that will give the Long Beach Unified School District much needed flexibility in the way it spends certain funds. The aim is to improve student achievement as quickly and efficiently as possible.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell proposed the initiative to the state board after consultation with Long Beach. The pilot project is part of a new partnership between LBUSD and the Fresno Unified School District, which are the third and fourth largest school districts in California. The two school districts have committed to sharing knowledge and resources to increase graduation rates and prepare students for college and the working world.

"This is the first of many steps we're taking to give our schools greater flexibility to use funds more efficiently," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District.

"Ultimately, this flexibility will allow us to

help more students achieve at higher levels. It's a bold step by the state superintendent. We deeply appreciate Jack O'Connell's support."

The state board specifically approved two waiver requests. One affected middle and high school supplemental counseling, allowing Long Beach to expand this service to sixth grade. LBUSD's own Academic and Career Success for All Initiative calls for this expansion.

Another waiver on instructional materials provides the flexibility to use these funds for technology equipment once basic textbook and other requirements have been met. This effort stems from Long Beach's own Technology Master Plan.

Long Beach drafted both waivers in consultation with parents and teachers.

The move by the state comes as educators and parents statewide, including in Long Beach, have staged rallies protesting proposed state cuts to education.

During lean budget times, flexibility on
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All-Star BBQ to Honor Classified Employees

Forty-five employees have been nominated for the Classified Employee of the Year Award. The top winner, finalists and nominees will be honored at noon during this year's Classified Employee Celebration. The sports-themed All-Star Barbecue is scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 23 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd Street.

Employees should park in the Circuit City parking lot at Spring Street and California Avenue. Continuous shuttles will run from the parking area to the barbecue. Parking will not be available at TRC, except for permit holders. In addition, buses will depart from the Hudson Maintenance Yard at 11:15 a.m., from

Operations at 10:15 a.m. and 11:50 a.m., from the Administration Building at 10:15 and 11:50 a.m., and from Nutrition Services at 10:15 and 11:50 a.m. Return shuttles also will be provided.

Employees should consider bringing a sun hat and sunscreen for the outdoor, mid-day event.

This year's nominees are: Pam Allensworth, Butler; Ericka Alonso, Marshall; Brad Angell, Warehouse; Diane Barkauskas, Wilson; Dominga Beltran, Curriculum; John Bosley, Marshall; Scott Brown, Gompers; Susan Cuff, Millikan; Karen Davis, Millikan; Dave Dines,
(Continued on next page)

Broad Prize Visitors To See Four Schools

A team of educators and researchers will visit local schools June 3 to 6 to help determine whether the Long Beach Unified School District will win public education's biggest prize, the national Broad Prize for Urban Education.

The school district last month was named, for a remarkable fourth time, as one of five finalists for the prize. Only one other school system nationwide has achieved this honor more times than Long Beach — Boston, a five-time finalist.

Long Beach is now competing with four other school districts for the Broad Prize, which will be announced Oct. 14 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

The reviewers will visit Edison and Signal Hill elementary schools, Hoover Middle School and Millikan High School to collect data and observe best practices.

The top winner receives \$500,000 in student scholarships. Four remaining finalists receive \$125,000 each in scholarships. In all, the prize money totals \$1 million.

The four other finalists include two school systems in Texas and two in Florida.

Long Beach won the top prize in 2003.

Service Learning Hits Million-Hour Mark

Local high school students have provided more than a million hours of service to the community since the Board of Education approved a service learning graduation requirement in 2003.

With students now volunteering at a rate of more than 400,000 hours per year, total service since the 2003 inception has reached 1,170,151 hours. That equates to 48,756 days, or more than 133 years.

At the \$18.05 national hourly rate of value placed on volunteer service, students in the Long Beach Unified School District have provided the equivalent of \$21 million in service to the community.

Beginning with the Class of 2007, all students complete 40 hours of service learning, or community service, to fulfill the high school graduation requirement. Service learning allows students to apply what they're learning in class, and it involves dozens of community, business and nonprofit organizations.

Aside from giving students a competitive edge as they apply to colleges and universities, service learning also helps to improve students' achievement, thinking skills, character and behavior. It strengthens community organizations and increases support for schools.

To learn more, go to www.lbschools.net and find Service Learning in the alphabetical index.

• Flexible Funding

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 spending is critical to helping school districts live within their means while remaining focused on student achievement.

“There is no silver bullet to closing the achievement gap that is leaving too many of our poor, Latino, and African American students behind their peers who are white or Asian,” O’Connell said. “But some districts have implemented effective practices that we should study and try to replicate. I am pleased that Long Beach and Fresno unified school districts are willing to work together toward closing the gap and improving student achievement. I hope that all districts in our state will benefit from the best practices borne by this partnership.”

The waivers approved by the state board will maintain all state and national accountability requirements but give both districts more flexibility in how they spend restricted funds.

Combined, the Long Beach and Fresno districts serve more than 150,000 students, most of whom are low-income, students of color, and/or English learners. The school districts have committed to capitalize on the knowledge they both have gained from their continuous improvement efforts, including Long Beach’s participation in Broad Foundation programs, and Fresno’s work with the Center for Reform of School Systems.

The Fresno-Long Beach partnership has three major goals:

- achieving a 100 percent graduation rate,
- preparing all graduates for success in higher education or a career with significant economic growth potential, and
- helping all students meet California’s academic standards at the proficient level or better with a special focus on raising the achievement of large numbers of English learners.

Poly Musicians a Hit

A sold-out concert by Poly violin prodigy Aishu Venkataraman and the Poly High School Jazz band helped to raise thousands of dollars for the Baylor College of Medicine’s International Pediatric AIDS Initiative.

The recent concert at Cal State Long Beach was part of Aishu’s service learning project. She has raised more than \$14,000 for the Baylor project from concert proceeds and sales of her new album, *Bliss*.

Also performing with Aishu at the concert were four renowned Indian drummers, including her father, V.R. Venkataraman.

Aishu is a sophomore honor student and will earn her college degree in music by the time she completes high school. Her goal is to raise \$25,000 for the pediatric AIDS effort.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Helen Hagen	June 5	Tammy Bechard 595-0308
Cindy Lotstein	June 6	Jean Ammon 900-0215
Marcia Massa	June 9	Barbara Campbell ext. 3605
Ann Robertson	June 9	Linda Mehlbrech ext. 2956
Janis Kleinberg & Maria Nunez	June 27	Teresa Woolvett 879-5102

Bringing Us Books

The Bring Me A Book Foundation recently presented the Butler District Parent Resource Center with a new book case and 35 new hard-cover children’s books.

The gift is among the first of 60 bookcase libraries, at a value of \$42,000, that the foundation has committed to providing to Long Beach Unified School District Child Development Centers, parent resource centers and Head Start facilities.

Donations from The Vons Foundation, Donna Gibbs and Family, The Adams Family, The Norris Foundation, and the Bess J. Hodges Foundation helped fund the first 10 bookcases.

West CDC, Pacific Head Start and Grant CDC are scheduled to receive bookcase libraries this month.

Wild Summer Safari

Parents whose children grow restless on those long summer days can send their kids on a “Wild Animal Safari.” That’s the theme for the new 2008 summer recreation program open to all students from first grade through high school.

Summer recreation sessions will be offered at Barton, Cubberley, Fremont, Garfield, Henry, International, Longfellow, McKinley, Muir, Riley and Tincher school playgrounds June 23 to July 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

For information, call ext. 8333.

Dates to Remember

June	Event
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — “Flag Day/Citizenship Day,” Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — “Adventures in Poetry III,” Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
8	Race Unity Day
8-12	National History Day Contest
9-15	National Little League Baseball Week
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — “Independence Day(s),” Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
12	Anne Frank’s Birthday
12	Last Day for Students — Traditional Calendar
13	Last Day for Teachers — Traditional Calendar

In Memoriam

Ade Mercurio
 recreation leader, Keller
 April 27, 2008

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
 Superintendent of Schools

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• Classified BBQ

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Maintenance; Joann English, Curriculum; Shawna Escovedo, Emerson; Glory Fields, Wilson; Michelle Fraser, Jordan; Fe Galvesola, Willard; Jaime Gorospe, Purchasing; Ema Hajdukovic, Nursing Services; Estella Hernandez, Stevenson; DeWayne Hundley, Lakewood; Joseph Johnson, Mail Room; Joann Kageno, Elementary Office; Dwight Kaufman, Jefferson; Kim Langer, Accounting/Payroll; Carlece Martin, School for Adults; Laura Martinez, Monroe; Phoebe McBennett, Poly; Gail McCullough, Special Projects; Lydia Mejia, Wilson; Gail Miller, Millikan; Emma Mojica, Wilson; Cheryl Morse, Lakewood; Nancy Najera, Keller; Beatriz Nieves, Millikan; Talita Pilart, Jefferson; Yvonne Quackenbush, Tincher; Irma Ramirez, Edison; Virgil Rapada, Maintenance; Terry Reichardt, Alvarado; Leticia Rodriguez, Superintendent’s Office; Patricia Starks, Muir; Robert Stewart, Lakewood; Joy Taylor, Longfellow; Billy Traylor, Lindbergh; Patty Turbyfill, Work Control Center; and Betty Wohlgezogen, Lowell.

NASA Training

Lakewood High School teachers Lindsay Penney and Myles Loveall have been selected to participate in NASA’s Data Acquisition training this summer. They are part of a 21-person team selected from across the nation.

The workshop will be held at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Virginia. The training focuses on using NASA data for atmospheric and Earth science teachers and amateurs.

The project enables K-12 teachers and students, as well as citizen scientists, to explore the large volumes of data that NASA collects about the Earth from space. Penney and Loveall will be developing lessons which will enable students to use scientific inquiry and math skills as they access the NASA data.

Update CPR Skills

Long Beach School for Adults will be offering Adult, Child and Infant CPR courses Saturdays June 21, and July 12 and 19. Sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Included with the class is the CPR book and American Red Cross certificate.

Pre-registration is required by calling School for Adults at 595-8893, ext. 234.

Names in the News

Kimberley Baril, principal at International Elementary School, was recently presented with the International Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award by the Beach Cities Reading Association. This award recognizes individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to literacy.

Winners of the “Litter Stinks” poster contest of the City of Long Beach Litter Abatement and Awareness Campaign are:
 1st — **Seth Robinson**, Bancroft; 2nd — **Jenny Lindell**, Bancroft; 3rd — **Mario Carrera**, Rogers. The contest attracted more than 120 entries.