



school bulletin

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

February 8, 2008

Hill Earns EdTrust 'Dispelling Myth' Award

Hill Classical Middle School is one of only five schools statewide that will be honored this month with the Dispelling the Myth Award from The Education Trust-West. The awards go to some of the highest performing and most improved schools in California.

The purpose of the awards is to share what works in raising student achievement for all groups of students, including disadvantaged students.

"Yours is a story of hope, and it is now more important than ever to share your message," said Russlynn Ali, executive director of EdTrust-West.

A team of educators from Hill will accept the award at a Feb. 24 conference in San Francisco. The Hill team will share the stage with State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jack O'Connell. Conference attendees from throughout the state will learn about Hill's successes.

"Our attendees have much to learn from your experience and Hill's journey," Ali wrote in a letter announcing the award. "We invite you to share your strategies for success with other district leaders and classroom educators who want to move beyond just believing all children can learn to actually seeing results."

Seven years ago, the state threatened to take over Hill Classical Middle School if it did not improve student achievement. Since then, it has won the highly coveted National Blue Ribbon Award.

In recent years, Hill has emphasized writing school-wide and has implemented Malcolm (Continued on back page)



LITERACY LAB — Josie Gavieres, center, won the Honda Helpful Award from Honda Corp. for her volunteer work at Bryant Elementary School. She started a non-profit group that boosts students' literacy skills by allowing them to read aloud to trained therapy dogs. The award included a new 2008 Honda Element that will transport dogs to schools. At the award ceremony in Santa Monica, Josie was joined by her son and former Bryant student Christopher Gavieres, left, Bryant Principal Doris Robinson and labrador retriever Groucho.

Agreement with TALB

The Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach have reached a tentative contract agreement that includes a 4.53 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2007. No changes to employee benefits were proposed.

TALB members will vote on the contract this month. The contract also must go to the LBUSD Board of Education and Los Angeles County Office of Education for approval.

Most other employees in the Long Beach Unified School District recently received a 4.53 percent raise with no changes to health benefits. This deal was approved by a 98 percent vote of the local chapter of the California School Employees Association, and it was extended to unrepresented employees.

Academic, Career Success for All Students

The Long Beach Unified School District, already nationally recognized for exemplary student achievement and improvement, has launched an ambitious initiative to prepare even more students for success in college and the working world. The Academic and Career Success for all Students Initiative was approved unanimously by the Board of Education this school year to enhance, expand and better coordinate the many learning opportunities available to students in local schools.

The initiative includes an emphasis on literacy, early algebra completion, expansion of rigorous Advanced Placement course offerings, more outreach to parents, completion of college entrance requirements, enhanced counseling services and much more.

"This is one of the most comprehensive initiatives that the school district has ever undertaken," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBUSD superintendent of schools. "Our students have made great strides in recent years, but they can and will do even better."

The initiative was recommended to the school board by a diverse committee of students, parents, employees and community partners. The recommendation came after the committee examined and discussed graduation requirements, college entrance requirements and survey results from more than 20,000 students, teachers, staff and parents.

At the heart of the initiative is the enhancement of the school district's existing Seamless (Continued on back page)

District Honors STAR Elementary Schools

The Board of Education recently recognized 18 elementary schools with STAR Awards for significant gains in student achievement.

"We're proud to say that our STAR schools represent every area of the city," Jill Baker, assistant superintendent for elementary schools, said during the awards presentation. "The STAR Award encourages continuous improvement and honors our schools in their efforts to always raise the bar for our students."

Four schools were honored for the fifth time: Tucker, Signal Hill, Keller and Lowell.

Three schools were four-year recipients: Addams, Alvarado and Garfield.

Six schools were three-year winners: Fremont, Riley, International, Twain, Stevenson and Webster.

Three schools were two-year winners: Henry, Lee and Harte.

Chavez and Lincoln schools won the award for the first time.

The STAR Award (Student success Terrific teaching Academic Results) is based on criteria that measure student achievement gains:

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

Students, parents, teachers and support staff from the winning schools participated in the awards ceremony.



• Dispelling Myth

(Continued from front page)

Baldrige problem-solving strategies that are used by some of the nation's most successful businesses. The school also implemented a Safe and Civil Schools model that has minimized tardies and created a calm atmosphere. Two months ago, this Safe and Civil Schools effort earned the coveted Golden Bell Award, the highest state honor from the California School Boards Association.

EdTrust West is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising student achievement, especially among disadvantaged students and students of color.

Classified Summer

Classified employees looking for summer hours can access application materials online on the Personnel Commission website.

All work sites and departments will receive an email with the application and information documents attached for downloading and reproducing. A district mailing will also be sent for those who do not have access to the web or email.

The application and information sheet can be completed online but must be printed out and signed. All applications and information sheets must be attached together and sent to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813

The 2008 summer session for elementary school is June 23 to July 25. Middle school is scheduled for June 23 to July 24 (Monday to Thursday). High school is June 23 to July 25.

Deadline to apply for summer employment is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 21.

Certificated Summer

Certificated applications for summer positions will be available at all schools and business offices on Friday, Feb. 15. Employees will also be able to download application materials at TeachLongBeach.com, under "For Current Employees."

Applications for School for Adults should be submitted directly to School for Adults. Applications for ROP should be submitted to the ROP office. All other applications must be submitted to the office of Human Resource Services, Attn: Summer School. Deadline is Friday, March 7.

The 2008 summer session for elementary school is June 23 to July 25. Middle school is scheduled for June 23 to July 24 (Monday to Thursday). High school is June 23 to July 25.

Applicants for certificated positions must receive satisfactory evaluations and hold a valid, up-to-date credential for the appropriate level or subject to be taught.

Bargaining unit members who are elected to teach summer school are paid on salary schedule P. Hours taught during summer school will count for supplemental STRS credit.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for Workers' Compensation Program coordinator.

Author and Illustrator Night a Hit at Lowell

More than 250 students and parents participated in a PTA-sponsored Authors and Illustrators Night at Lowell Elementary School last week.

The event featured free, hands-on workshops, including: how to illustrate a picture book with Mai S. Kemble, author-illustrator of "The Moon and the Night Sweeper," and Marina Valentina, author-illustrator of "Lost in the Roses"; how to craft the plot of a book with short story writer Michael Buckley; and how to weave a tale of fantasy and fact with time travel author Stacia Deutsch, whose eight-book "Blast to the Past" series features students who visit historic figures. Author-artist and former Belmont Shore resident Matt Whitlock helped students create stories and illustrations. Whitlock works for Nickelodeon as an animation designer and has created the Punk 'N Patch book series starring the grumpiest pumpkin on earth.

Request Transfers

Human Resource Services will be accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change schools for 2008-09.

Transfer request forms will be available at all schools, the TALB office and the HRS office during the week of Feb. 11. Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted at www.lbschools.net. 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 student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Monday, March 31. Transfer requests will not be accepted after the deadline. For information about transfers, call ext. 8635.

Leaving LBUSD?

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2008-09 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator. Leaves of absence request, resignation and retirement forms are available from site secretaries or at TeachLongBeach.com, under "For Current Employees."

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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• Success for All

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Education effort, which involves a partnership between LBUSD, Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach. Seamless Education was developed in the 1990s to create seamless pre-kindergarten to post-graduate school education. This partnership aligns academic standards, teaching methods and student assessment from preschool through master's and doctoral degrees to improve student achievement and teacher quality. Enhancements to this effort include:

- Educating students and parents about "A-G" college entrance requirements and career options starting in sixth grade.
- Collaborating with LBCC & CSULB to establish criteria for guaranteed college admission, helping students meet those criteria, identifying various college pathways for students, and providing support to students during college.
- Aligning the higher education initiatives with career technical education to make certain that students have as many post-high-school options as possible.

With enhanced Seamless Education at its core, the Academic Success Initiative includes many other integrated efforts. The school district will report its progress on the initiative through a variety of measurements such as fifth and eighth grade English and math proficiency, graduation rates and performance on college entrance exams.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Sasha Bausley, Kids Club lead assistant, Gant;

Jose Delamora, plant supervisor-high school, Cabrillo;

Julie Gallardo-Perez, Kids Club lead assistant, Lowell;

Ana Gonzalez, school community worker-bilingual Spanish, Hughes;

Yolanda Huerta, instructional aide-Parent Resources Center, OCIPD;

Judy Marshall, human resources technician, Personnel Commission;

Sharon McGiffert, elementary school office supervisor, Roosevelt;

Roberto Rodriguez, human resources technician, HRS;

Josephine Ruiz, human resources technician, HRS;

Paula Shelton, human resources technician, HRS;

Azucena Vera, intermediate office assistant-bilingual Spanish, Burnett.

In Memoriam

Florence C. Lawson

former teacher
Jan. 26, 2008

McArthur "Mac" Pickett
custodian supervisor, Stevenson
Jan. 27, 2008