



school bulletin

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

December 14, 2007

Title I Awards Go To Ten LBUSD Schools

Ten local schools are among 239 statewide to be named 2007-08 Title I Academic Achievement Award winners. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced the winners this week.

Local winners are Addams, Alvarado, Bixby, Edison, Gompers, Keller, Lee, Riley, Signal Hill and Webster elementary schools.

"These outstanding schools have shown that with hard work and tight focus, the challenges of poverty, language, and socioeconomic background can be overcome," O'Connell said.

The awards recognize schools receiving federal Title I funds for socioeconomically disadvantaged students. The schools must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. These standards define the knowledge, concepts and skills students are expected to acquire at each grade level.

The criteria to qualify for the award have become more rigorous each year. Title I schools must demonstrate the achievement level of twice the state-determined schoolwide Academic Performance Index growth target, meet all significant subgroup targets, and achieve twice the API growth target for the socioeconomically disadvantaged subgroup for two consecutive years.

Winning schools also must have attained federal Adequate Yearly Progress targets two years in a row, and at least 40 percent of the enrolled students in each school must meet the poverty index.

The winners will be recognized at an April conference in Century City.

DICTIONARY DAY — Students from McKinley Elementary School compete in a dictionary challenge game at the Long Beach Main Library. The students are among thousands receiving free dictionaries this year, courtesy of the Library Foundation and the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation.



CAMS, Poly, Lakewood Among Best in U.S.

The first annual ranking of America's Best High Schools by *U.S. News and World Report* includes the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, Polytechnic High School and Lakewood High School.

CAMS earned a gold medal, Poly earned silver, and Lakewood earned bronze.

Gold medal winners are those that made the top 100 out of nearly 19,000 public high schools nationwide. CAMS earned a ranking of 21. Only 405 schools earned silver, and 1,086 earned bronze, putting CAMS, Poly and Lakewood in the top 8 percent of high schools nationwide.

U.S. News and World Report published its full list of schools online at www.usnews.com. The magazine hit newsstands Monday, Dec. 3.

CAMS is a 600-student regional high school at Cal State Dominguez Hills and is run by the Long Beach Unified School District.

"We're excited, thrilled and pleasantly surprised," said CAMS Principal Janice Filer.

"Being a small high school, we work as a close-knit family. The credit for this honor goes to the entire CAMS community."

The *U.S. News* methodology was developed by School Evaluation Services, an education data research business run by Standard & Poor's.

U.S. News analyzed 18,790 public high schools in 40 states. A three-step process determined the best high schools.

The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all of their students well, using state proficiency standards as the measuring benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepared students for college.

In judging college readiness, *U.S. News* used Advanced Placement data as the benchmark for success. AP is a College Board program that offers college-level courses at high schools across the nation. A "college readiness index" was computed based on AP participation rates and how well students performed on AP tests.

Gold medal winner CAMS accepts applications from students from 80 middle schools in 11 participating districts—usually coming from the top 30 percent of their class. More than 40 percent of CAMS students qualify for free or reduced-price meals, yet they consistently have UC admission rates that are among the highest in California.

In 2004, CAMS earned the coveted National Blue Ribbon Award. By the time students graduate from CAMS, they have completed the equivalent of six years of science,

(Continued on back page)



Ten More Teachers Earn National Certification

Ten more teachers in the Long Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification.

The newest certifications bring the total number of nationally certified teachers in the school district to a record high of 114.

The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves writing extensive portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's 3 million teachers earn the certification each year.

During bargaining in 2000, the school district and the Teachers' Association of Long Beach agreed to support teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification by offering pre-candidacy and candidacy support programs, payment of application fees (\$2,565), and a 10 percent salary increase for teachers who obtain certification. In addition, National Board Certified teachers

are eligible for a \$20,000 bonus from the State of California if they teach at low-performing schools.

New National Board Certified teachers are Kristine Diehl, Signal Hill; Barbara Doten, OCIPD; Craig Gibson, Music Office; Renee Gonzalez-Gomez, Lincoln; Terre Hradnansky, Newcomb; Stephanie Sasaki, Jefferson; Dianne Swanson, Los Cerritos; Dunia Zeineddine, Poly; Sallie Stout, Hoover; and Michelle Woolwine, Cleveland. Any newly certified teachers whose names do not appear on this list should contact Lisa Isbell at ext. 2900 as soon as possible.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards provides the certification. The board is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental agency governed by a 63-member board of directors, the majority of whom are classroom teachers. The board establishes rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

• Best High Schools

(Continued from front page)

four years of math and, on average, have earned 22 college credits. One hundred percent of the CAMS Class of 2007 went on to college.

To determine the *U.S. News* rankings, the magazine examined whether each school's students were performing better in math and reading than statistically expected for the average student in their state.

For those schools that made it past this first step, the second step determined whether the school's African American, Hispanic and low-income students were performing better than average for similar students in the state.

Schools that made it through those first two steps became eligible to be judged nationally on the final step: college-readiness performance. This was calculated using a weighted average of the AP participation rate and other factors.



GOOD AS GOLD — The California School Boards Association gives the Long Beach Unified School District its highest honor, the Golden Bell Award, for the Safe and Civil Schools Initiative. The initiative has improved safety and student behavior at dozens of local schools. From left: CSBA Executive Director Scott Plotkin, Doug Siembieda, Susan Isaacs, Gwen Mathews, James Suarez, Peter Davis and Chris Steinhauser. See www.lbschools.net for more information.

Summer Leadership

Letters of interest and applicant data sheets are being accepted for 2008 elementary summer school principal positions.

To apply, download and complete a summer school principal application data sheet, available at www.lbschools.net on the Elementary Office website. Send the sheet and a hard copy of a letter of interest to the Elementary Office, attention Jill Baker, Assistant Superintendent, by Feb. 8.

Job Share Deadlines

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2008-09 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

- Jan. 14 — Submission of written requests 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. 8253.

Library Foundation Earns Literacy Honor

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation recently received the prestigious "Champions For Our Children" Award from First 5 LA. The award recognized the Foundation's outstanding efforts to promote early literacy through its Raising A Reader Long Beach program.

Raising A Reader has graduated more than 6,900 parents and pre-schoolers from its reading readiness course. Parents attend an orientation and receive a how-to DVD and early learning tools, including Kindergarten and School Readiness Guidelines developed by the school district, to use at home with their children during the 12-week course.

First 5 LA is a child-advocacy organization created by California voters.

Nominate Principals For National Honor

Do you know a principal who is an outstanding citizen in your community? To help that principal'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 principals who are strengthening their schools and surrounding communities. Students, parents, educators and community members are encouraged to nominate a principal who is making an impact beyond their school to improve the community.

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 7. For information about the award, visit www.ncl.org/metlife/index.html.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for intermediate accounting assistant, school safety communications operator, senior accounting assistant, switchboard operator and water/boiler treatment specialist.

Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) for December are **Don Griffin**, Lincoln; **Alex Guzman**, Harte; **Joey Hayashi**, Emerson; **Walteries Lamb-Stanzell**, Stanford; **Ken McKivett**, Washington; **Dawn Mendelson**, Burbank; **Mharljoy Mendoza**, Robinson; **Sandra Olivo**, Franklin; **Edward Salazar**, Henry; and **Ismenia Siaumau**, Newcomb.

Dates to Remember

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

In Memoriam

Carol Grimm
former teacher
Nov. 22, 2007

Lee Washington
former assistant principal
Dec. 4, 2007

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FELTON WILLIAMS, President
JON MEYER, Vice President
DAVID BARTON, Member
MICHAEL ELLIS, Member
MARY STANTON, Member
BRITTANY QUACH, Student Member