



# school bulletin

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

January 11, 2008

## Governor Declares Fiscal Emergency

Facing a budget shortfall of more than \$14 billion, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this week said California faces a fiscal emergency that will require a broad array of cuts to state services, according to published reports.

The budget crisis has significant implications for California's public schools, which receive most of their funding from the state.

Schwarzenegger had already warned state agencies to prepare for 10-percent across-the-board cuts in their operations. He planned to declare a fiscal emergency this week, allowing for an immediate emergency legislative session to deal with the budget crunch.

"I think it's going to be a very grim budget," Assemblyman John Laird, chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, said in the *Long Beach Press-Telegram*. "And I don't think people around the state yet understand how bad it is."

The state's collection of revenue currently is based on volatile sources such as personal income and sales taxes, which fluctuate with the economy.

The Governor's initial budget proposal is presented in January before it goes to the Legislature for approval later in the year.

## Thousands to Attend Education Celebration

Education Celebration will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

The event combines the features of an exposition and a community festival. Families may visit the booths of every elementary and K-8 school in the district.

For more information, call 997-8306.

## What Others Say

"Sustainable progress in school reform is very hard to find, and Long Beach strikes us as the district that best in the nation has exemplified that sustainability," Don McAdams, founder and president of the Houston-based Center for Reform of School Systems, said at the most recent LBUSD Board of Education public workshop.

"I'm always pleased to be in Long Beach because of the reputation for excellence that you have," McAdams said.

"Your record of achievement is well-known, and I would say, even legendary," McAdams added. "In fact, we are so interested in the Long Beach story that we have determined that we need to write a case study on you, for use in our training."



**DOOLEY DRAGONS** — Students at Dooley Elementary School perform during the school's recent dedication ceremony. Local dignitaries, including members of the Dooley family, for whom the school is named, helped to celebrate the opening of the new 1,100-student school in North Long Beach. Students Angela Sajuela and Joseph Lomeli, right, helped to unveil the school's new logo, featuring their chosen mascot, a well-read dragon.

## Thank You for Your Dedication to Students

By Christopher J. Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

Welcome to the new year in one of America's finest school systems. You've accomplished so much and been honored so often in just a few short months since the start of the school year. Consider these examples:

Our school district was recognized as one of the top urban school systems in the nation and is receiving \$125,000 in scholarships as a finalist for the 2007 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

As part of our Academic Success Initiative, we've begun using a new \$22.4 million federal GEAR-UP grant to help boost college and career readiness during the next six years. Implementation starts with the entire sixth grade class at 13 schools, assisting the same group of nearly 4,000 students as they progress through the grades to local high schools.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation awarded \$2.7 million to LBUSD over three years for our Aspiring Principal Program.

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and Lowell, Naples and International elementary schools are among 579 Honor Roll Schools named statewide for closing achievement gaps. The 2007 Honor Roll from the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation and Just for the Kids includes schools recognized by business leaders for improvement and high achievement.

LBUSD received a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities Grant. The grant will expand and enhance smaller learning communities at Lakewood and Millikan high schools.

Local business and community leaders pledged \$130,000 to fund tutoring for hundreds of local high school students who are struggling to become proficient in Algebra I.

Our Safe and Civil Schools Initiative has won the prestigious Golden Bell Award, the highest honor from the California School Boards Association.

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.

Ten local schools are among 239 statewide to be named 2007-08 Title I Academic Achievement Award winners.

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



(Continued on back page)

## • Dedicated Efforts

(Continued from front page)  
the total number of nationally certified teachers in the school district to a record high of 114.

A gleaming, newly built Dooley Elementary School opened in North Long Beach, accommodating more than 1,000 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Three outstanding Long Beach Unified School District teachers were selected as 2008 Teachers of the Year. One of the three, King Elementary School kindergarten teacher Laura Hand, was also selected as a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year.

Despite all of this recognition, we always seek ways to improve. We are boosting college preparedness offerings, career technology training and many other efforts to equip each high school graduate with the skills needed for rewarding careers.

Through our Strategic Plan effort, and through careful planning regarding facilities and technology, we're continually refining our operations with the input of our employees. These efforts will positively affect the experience of our employees and our students for many years to come.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help accomplish our vital mission of serving every student, every day. It is a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated team.

## Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Monday, Jan. 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Millikan High School Library.

The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

## Teach in Yokkaichi

An information meeting for teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach's sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for two years beginning in August, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 4 p.m. in Room 445 of the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way.

Applications will be available at the meeting along with representatives from the Long Beach Yokkaichi committee to answer questions. For information, call ext. 8025.

## Summer Leadership

Applications are now being accepted for middle school site administrators for summer school. Desirable applicants will be instructional leaders who are passionate and knowledgeable about learning and instruction. A letter of interest and resume should be forwarded to the Middle School/K-8 Office, attention Gwen Mathews. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Feb. 8.

## The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for braille transcriber, senior systems analyst, systems analyst, and systems operator.

## Strategic Plan, Ethics Wallet Guides Ready

Conveniently sized wallet guides summarizing the Long Beach Unified School District's Strategic Plan and Code of Ethics will be distributed to employees in the coming days. Site managers will receive enough copies to share with employees.

The wallet guides include details on the school district's mission, vision, goals, shared values and beliefs, and guiding principles related to the Code of Ethics recently adopted by the Board of Education.

The guides are a product of the Strategic Plan's Goal 5 Committee. The Strategic Plan, developed with input from a broad cross section of district employees and community members, has five main goals. Goal 5 is to improve communication districtwide.

For more information on the Strategic Plan, visit [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) and click on Strategic Planning in the alphabetical index.

## Aspiring Assistant, Vice Principals

Long Beach Unified School District is accepting applications for the position of assistant/vice principal for the 2008-09 school year. All applicants for the positions will be considered for the Aspiring Assistant Principals program for this year. Deadline for submission of required documents is Friday, Feb. 15. Visit the Leadership Development website for requirements and application information.

## Volunteers Needed

OASIS and the Long Beach Unified School District need volunteers 50 and older for one hour a week to help K-3 students, one-on-one, to improve their reading skills. For the next training information, contact OASIS at 601-5009 or [www.oasisnet.org](http://www.oasisnet.org).

## In Memoriam

**Lynne Karlsen**  
former personnel analyst  
Jan. 2, 2008

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Names in the News

Two teachers from Henry were recently selected for service on California Department of Education panels: **Sylvia Padilla**, to serve on the Content Review Panel, and **Amanda Flores**, to serve on the Instructional Materials Review Panel.

**Sylvia Morgan**, reading specialist at Addams, recently received the Margaret Lynch Area Exemplary Service Award from the California Reading Association. Morgan was recognized for outstanding contributions to reading in the district and community.

**Phyllis Greenberg**, GATE Psychologist, recently received the California Association for the Gifted's Distinguished Service Award.

**Alonzo Acevedo**, fifth grade student at King, was awarded Upper Elementary First Prize in the Seventh Annual California School Library Association "@ YourLibrary" Poster Contest.

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) for January are **Guillermina Anaya**, Chavez; **Barbara Gorman**, Addams; **George Gorman**, Addams; **Jennifer LeBrun**, Washington; **Munazirah Mulim**, Burroughs; **Elia Pineda**, Hamilton; **Mari Carmen Remigio**, Edison; **Darla Sorensen**, Gompers; **Janet Stevens**, Willard; **Pat Towner**, Washington; and **James Walton**, Holmes.

## Exit Exam Sessions

Academic UpRise is sponsoring Saturday morning workshop sessions to help students pass the California High School Exit Exam.

The tutoring sessions are Jan. 12, 19 and 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; April 5 and 26; and May 3.

Sessions will be held at three locations: 2501 E. Cherry Ave., Suite 160; 455 Artesia Blvd; and 5640 Orange Ave.

For information, call 988-5855.

## Hi-Hill Employment

Hi-Hill Outdoor School is recruiting Junior Camp Counselors for the 2008-09 school year. Interviews will be held all day Saturday, April 19. There are also a limited number of positions available now for 2007-08. All interested high school seniors and other interested people may contact Hi-Hill secretary Colleen Walker at ext. 8247 or [cwalker@lbschools.net](mailto:cwalker@lbschools.net) to apply.

## Beachwalk Champs

Students, staff and parents in the Long Beach Unified School District recently helped to raise thousands of dollars for the Long Beach Children's Clinic during the annual Beachwalk.

Millikan High School was recognized for having the greatest number of walkers and raising the most money of any group. The Millikan team raised about \$18,000.

Proceeds from the 5K walk will help the clinic to provide low and no-cost health care for children, many of whom attend local schools.

The clinic accommodates more than 45,000 patient visits each year, including some of the most severely disabled and disadvantaged children in Long Beach.