



# school bulletin

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

December 5, 2008



**OCEAN ART** — “I Too Can Make A Change,” a work by Esmeralda Banuelos, student at Renaissance High School for the Arts, won first place in the high school division at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration art contest. The recent contest was judged at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Judges included Robert Wyland, who has painted several huge outdoor murals of whales and undersea life, including one that encircles the Long Beach Arena.

## Outdoor Education Resumes Next Week

Dozens of local fifth graders will head for Camp Oakes near Big Bear next week for their previously postponed outdoor science experience. The Long Beach Unified School District is providing abbreviated two-and-a-half-day sessions at the popular YMCA camp in the San Bernardino Mountains to replace the traditional five-day experience at Hi-Hill Outdoor School. Hi-Hill was closed Oct. 10 because of heightened fire risk.

In order to accommodate all 5,800 fifth graders in the district schools, a half-week schedule is necessary. Students will attend either from Monday to Wednesday or from Wednesday to Friday.

As a result of the shortened schedule, the outdoor science fee schedule will also be cut in half. The fee for full-paying students is now \$150; students paying reduced lunch fees are \$80; and students receiving free lunch, \$70.

Camp Oakes, located near Big Bear Lake and Highway 38, was established 50 years ago. It has hosted many student groups from the district.

Parents of fifth graders are being notified about the new outdoor science alternative by individual schools.

An additional outdoor school operated by the Orange County Department of Education is also available, if needed, to accommodate students from the Long Beach Unified School District.

Camperships donated by employees and other generous contributors will now allow hundreds of fifth graders to receive needed assistance this school year.

## Seven Named State 2008 Honor Roll Schools

Seven exemplary schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are being recognized by the business community for their outstanding success in raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps among all groups of students.

Recently named as California Business for Education Excellence/Just for the Kids California Honor Roll Schools for 2008 are Keller, International, Fremont, Lowell and Naples elementary schools, Emerson Parkside Academy and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

After reviewing student achievement data for every public school in California, these schools stood above the rest in getting students to meet and exceed grade-level proficiency.

The purpose of identifying the high-performing statewide Honor Roll Schools is to tell their stories and share their best practices.

The Honor Roll is comprised of two different awards, the Star Schools Award (CAMS, Emerson, International and Keller) and the Scholar Schools Award (Fremont, Lowell and Naples).

“We know from the success of these schools that it’s possible for all schools and all students in California to reach high levels of academic achievement, to close achievement gaps and to reach 100 percent grade-level proficiency on the California Standards Test,” said Jim Lanich, Ph.D., president of CBEE. “We hope other schools can learn from these schools’ proven best practices and achieve the same results.”

No other school recognition program in California uses hard data, individual school and student subgroup performance data, based on the California Standards Tests and the California High School Exit Exam, to evaluate

school academic performance.

“Schools on the Honor Roll dispel the myth that certain students can’t reach grade-level proficiency and that schools with a challenging student population won’t be able to succeed,” said Greg Jones, CBEE chair. “Honor Roll schools are overcoming challenges every day to raise student achievement.”

California Business for Education Excellence is supported by 17 major corporations, the California Business Roundtable and the California Chamber of Commerce.

## More Schools Call Parents for Better Results

Teleparent, the new automatic calling system, completed more than 168,000 household calls in the Long Beach Unified School District in November. After initial training and testing, the new districtwide service to schools and parents is now up and running. Both the district and the schools can use the system to notify parents.

The district attracted more than 1,200 students and their parents from all middle schools to the Seventh Grade Math Conferences — Preparing for Success in Math, High School and Beyond held on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Approximately 4,700 households received Teleparent calls reminding them of the event.

For an Academic Uprise event, Nov. 21-22, the district used Teleparent to call 37,000 households of sixth through twelfth graders.

More than 80 percent — approximately 30,000 — received the calls.

Avalon School used Teleparent to notify families during a recent storm. In past years, dozens of concerned parents inundated the school with calls. Some had kept their chil-

dren home, thinking school was closed. This year, the automatic calls notified parents in advance that school would be in session. Attendance the next day was excellent.

One parent walking down a street in Avalon noticed passersby reaching for their cell phones as she answered hers. She also heard the phones ringing in nearby homes and businesses. In fact, hundreds of phones rang simultaneously to let parents know during the Avalon storm watch that school would be in session the next morning.

Grant Elementary School used the system to notify parents of third graders that school would start early the next day for students taking a field trip. Of the 181 notified, all but two arrived early the next day.

Teleparent allows schools to record and send messages about attendance, corrective action, grade progress, needed information and positive recognition. It can be used to notify parents and staff in emergencies, for surveys, community outreach, sports teams, school clubs, entire grade levels and special needs.

## Kids' Dictionary Day

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation will celebrate its annual dictionary giveaway to the city's third graders with a special Dictionary Day ceremony at the Bret Harte Branch Library on Friday, Dec. 12. Students from Garfield Elementary School will be special guests.

Dictionary Day — now in its sixth year — puts a student dictionary in the hands of every third grader in Long Beach. The gift makes certain that children have dictionaries in their homes from the third grade on to help them with spelling, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Along with the dictionaries, special lesson material is given to their teachers to instruct the children in dictionary use.

During this year's ceremony, Garfield students will compete on teams to demonstrate the new skills they've learned in a special Dictionary Challenge Game.

## Job Sharing Info

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2009-10 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

- Jan. 12: Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.
- Mar. 1: Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Applicants should submit these items to Human Resource Services, or for additional information, contact Karen Ensich, ext. 8253.

## Retirement Seminar

Although the CalSTRS Retirement Seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 13 has been cancelled, the seminar for Monday, Feb. 2 is scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at 1515 Hughes Way, Room 143. Attendance is limited to those who make reservations by Jan. 20 at ext. 8214.

The seminar will include an explanation of CalSTRS service retirement allowance, retirement options, disability and survivor benefits and updates on legislation. This presentation will be particularly important for members who are eligible for retirement. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

## Cohort Training

The deadline to apply for CSULB Tier I Administrative Cohort training for 2009-10 is Jan. 9.

An informational session about the training is being held on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. in the Powell Academy library. This program will be offered if there is sufficient interest among LBUSD staff. Information is available at the Leadership Development website at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Main\\_Offices/Human\\_Resources/Leadership\\_Development/](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Main_Offices/Human_Resources/Leadership_Development/) to access the program flyer.

“Hope arouses, as nothing else can arouse, a passion for the possible.”

— William Sloan Coffin

## Measure K Next Steps Outlined for Board

Overwhelming approval of Measure K school bonds last month paves the way for the next steps in preparing for school construction and modernization in 2009.

Carri Matsumoto, executive director, Facilities, Development and Planning Branch, described at a special Board of Education workshop on Monday, Dec. 1 actions that the district must take before new schools can be built and older schools can be modernized.

After the district receives the certified election results from the County, the district is expected to take these necessary steps during the next three months:

- Board of Education adoption of a resolution that certifies the election results to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.
- Board of Education adoption of a resolution for establishing a citizens oversight committee, by-laws, ethics policy and application procedures.
- Board of Education appointment of members to the citizens oversight committee.

## Names in the News

Recently honored as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) for December are **Charolet Garza**, Hill; **Laura Roman**, McKinley; and **Heidi Rosado**, Dooley.

Cubberley fourth grade teacher **Doug Heath** was recently honored as Teacher of the Year by the Towne Center Wal-Mart. He received a gift card and \$1,000, which will be used to purchase trophies and incentives for students and to enhance the school garden, the Center for Agricultural Studies.

Winners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's poster contest are: Grades 3-5: 1st — **Megan Kaplinsky's** third grade class, Harte; 2nd — **Angel Posos**, Dooley; 3rd — **Enrique Cruz**, Dooley; Honorable Mention — **Alondra Orozco**, Dooley. Grades 6-8: 1st — **Adrienne Sandstedt's** Period 5 class, Lindsey; 2nd — **Adrienne Sandstedt's** Period 2 class, Lindsey; 3rd — **Adrienne Sandstedt's** Period 3 class, Lindsey. Grades 9-12: 1st — **Esmeralda Banuelos**, Renaissance; 2nd — **Randolf Farwell**, Cabrillo; 3rd — **Arturo Torres**, CAMS; Honorable Mention — **Teresa Roman**, CAMS; **Margan McGuire**, Renaissance; and **Katy Allen**, Millikan.

Superintendent **Chris Steinhauer** was recently awarded the Administrative Leadership Award by the California School Library Association.

### 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](http://www.lbschools.net)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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The committee will be composed of seven members, who serve without compensation no more than two consecutive two-year terms. Members will include a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district, a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and who is active in a parent-teacher organization such as the PTA or a school site council, a person active in a business organization representing the business community located in the district, a person active in a senior citizen's organization, a person active in a taxpayers' association and two community members at large.

The district is expected to issue its first school bonds and begin major work on schools this spring. The citizens oversight committee will prepare annual reports to certify that the work is done in compliance with provisions of Measure K.

## LBEF Giving Online

Donations to the Long Beach Education Foundation may now be made online.

Go to the LBUSD home page at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net).

Click on “L” in the alphabetical index, and select “Long Beach Education Foundation.”

Click the blue box that says “Donate Online.”

On the next screen, type your name and optional company name. Then designate the fund you wish to donate to. If you don't see your preferred fund, you may type in a special designation.

Click to continue. A screen will open verifying your information.

Another click will take you to a secure payment website, Authorize.net, to complete your transaction.

For information about LBEF, go to [http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Community/Education\\_Foundation/programs.cfm](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Community/Education_Foundation/programs.cfm). Now is an excellent time to check out this new, easy-to-use feature to help our students survive the recession with a good education.

## In Memoriam

**Marilyn Darch**  
teacher, Poly  
Aug. 26, 2008

**Cesar Catalan**  
custodian, Wilson  
Nov. 1, 2008

**Betty Duffy**  
former secretary  
Nov. 13, 2008

**Heidi Nelson**  
teacher, MacArthur  
Nov. 14, 2008

**Robert Sanborn**  
former teacher  
Nov. 14, 2008

**Elizabeth Langlois**  
teacher, Lakewood  
Nov. 24, 2008