



# school bulletin

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

February 20, 2009

## Stimulus to Provide \$56 Million to LBUSD

The \$787 billion federal economic stimulus package signed by President Barack Obama this week will bring an estimated \$56 million to the Long Beach Unified School District over the next two years.

The funding comes at a time when LBUSD is struggling to close a \$70 million gap in its budget due to the state's fiscal crisis. Earlier this week, the LBUSD Board of Education took a step toward notifying 46 administrators, counselors and social workers that they could be laid off this year. The step was preliminary and does not mean that the warnings will be issued or that layoffs will occur.

LBUSD is still looking at ways to reduce expenditures because of the size of the state budget shortfall and in turn LBUSD's budget shortfall.

"We have no idea how much money we will

have from the state over the next 18 months, but we know it will be significantly less," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools.

Of the approximately \$56 million in stimulus funding, about \$35.7 million would come in the form of Title I funds, used in schools that have large numbers of students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. About \$20.5 million would be used for special education. Special education programs encroach significantly on the school district's general fund, so the special education funding will help to alleviate pressure on the general fund.

The state also is slated to receive "stabilization" funding from the federal stimulus package, to help with the state's estimated deficit. How much of that stabilization funding LBUSD will see remained unclear this week.

## Hill Classical Up for Distinguished School

Hill Classical Middle School is one step away from earning the state's highest educational honor, the California Distinguished School award.

A validation visit is scheduled for Feb. 27.

"If we get through this one, it will be our second win," Principal Peter Davis said. Hill last won the award in the 2005-06 school year.

Hill was one of only 48 schools in Los Angeles County to qualify for a visit, and it was one of only 250 eligible to apply in California, out of 2,500 middle schools.

Criteria for the award changed this year to emphasize the closing of achievement gaps and whether schools met or exceeded state

Academic Performance Index and federal Adequate Yearly Progress goals.

Middle schools must have a schoolwide 2008 API of at least 746, and schoolwide 2008 growth API must meet or exceed the school's growth target.

In addition to these criteria, all subgroups must make at least 5 percent of the difference between the subgroup base API and 800. Schools also must make AYP.

Among the programs that Hill highlighted in its application was the school's Safe and Civil Schools effort, a program that has helped to improve student behavior at dozens of schools.



**DANCE SPECTRUM** — These students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science were among nearly 200 dancers participating in the annual districtwide Dance Spectrum recently at Poly High School.

## Middle, K-8 Schools Honored for Progress

Six local middle and K-8 schools earned awards from the Long Beach Unified School District this week for significant growth in academic achievement.

The district's Office of Middle and K-8 Schools recognized each of the winners at a Board of Education meeting.

The Pyramid Awards, recognizing the cooperative efforts of parents, school staff, the principal and students, went to schools that at least doubled their schoolwide growth target for the state Academic Performance Index; met the federal Adequate Yearly Progress criteria in English, math and API; and met academic growth targets for all subgroups.

This year's winners are Tincher K-8 Preparatory Academy, Rogers Middle School, Cubberley K-8 School, Hill Classical Middle School, Newcomb K-8 Academy and Stanford Middle School.

## LB Reads One Book: 'Three Cups of Tea'

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation will kick off its annual citywide celebration of reading, Long Beach Reads One Book, with a presentation by the co-author of this year's selection, "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time."

The annual weeklong celebration includes numerous activities throughout the community

and in local schools.

At the kick-off on Friday, March 6, co-author Greg Mortensen will speak at 7 p.m. at Cal State Long Beach's Carpenter Center. The public is invited. Tickets are \$30 for the public and \$15 for students/faculty, and are available at [www.carpenterarts.org](http://www.carpenterarts.org), or by calling the Arts Ticket Office Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to

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## School District to Receive 'WINTER' Award

Women In Non-Traditional Employment Roles (WINTER) will present the Long Beach Unified School District with its Community Partner Award at WINTER'S annual recognition dinner on March 7.

The school district is being honored for its work with the Rosie the Riveter Charter School. The school is chartered under LBUSD.

WINTER is a nonprofit economic develop-

ment agency and a leader in diversity workforce development and education. The organization's vision is to end poverty by offering career options to women and girls, providing self-sufficiency. WINTER provides intensive workplace competency skills, construction trades awareness, environmental remediation training and other non-traditional career instruction.

## • Three Cups of Tea

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6 p.m. and Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. at 985-7000.

"Three Cups of Tea," which won the 2007 Kiriyama Prize for nonfiction, tells of Mortenson's efforts to fight the root causes of terrorism – ignorance and poverty – by building schools in the most remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan, where the Taliban and Al-Qaeda flourish. Mortenson has just been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and is currently debuting two young-reader versions of his book, which are now available for purchase in stores.

In local schools, elementary librarians will receive a picture book version, "Listen to the Wind," so that teachers may bring students to school libraries for read-alouds.

Middle and K-8 schools will receive a middle school version class set to be rotated among eighth graders, along with five copies for the librarian.

Each high school will receive 45 copies to rotate among tenth grade classes, as well as five copies for each librarian.

Mortenson also is speaking from 12 to 1 p.m. at Wilson Classical High School, where students from other high schools and middle schools also will attend. No remaining seats are available for the Wilson event.

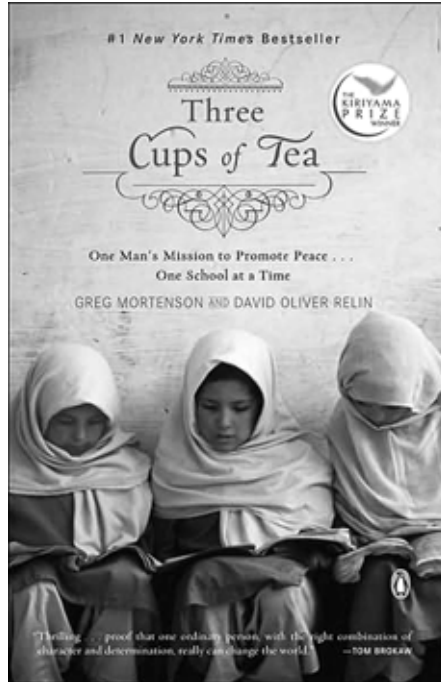
Since 2002, the Long Beach Public Library Foundation has been encouraging the love of reading through Long Beach Reads One Book, which brings the community together to read and discuss one book through a wide range of activities. This year's celebration will run from March 6 to 14.

Other events include an all-day public read of the book hosted by Justin Rudd, toddler

story times at various libraries in Long Beach, a Pakistani cultural dance event, and much more.

This year, the Foundation has partnered with the Arts Council for Long Beach to broaden the event into an entire Festival of Arts and Literature, under the theme of Visions, Voices.

A brochure with further information on local activities is available inside all Long Beach libraries and can be viewed at [www.lbplfoundation.org/programs\\_lbrob.html](http://www.lbplfoundation.org/programs_lbrob.html). The Library Foundation may be contacted at 628-2441. A calendar of events may be viewed at [www.artslb.org/content/visions-voices-calendar](http://www.artslb.org/content/visions-voices-calendar). The Arts Council may be contacted at 570-1930.



## Names in the News

Winners of the Long Beach Rotary Club Speech Contest are: 1st — **Hunter Thomas**, Wilson; 2nd — **Sasanka Jinadasa**, Poly; 3rd — **Jamal Matthews**, Poly; 4th — **Victoria Kaestner**, Wilson.

Former LBUSD physical education teacher **Ruth Mohr** recently was named U.S. southwestern region High School Teacher of the Year by the California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Honored for her work at Wilson High School, she now advances to the national level of competition.

**John and Marianne Byrum**, Long Beach Poly JROTC 1st Sgt. and Supply Clerk respectively, received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 at the Orange County Chapter Awards Luncheon. The husband and wife team work tirelessly to make the lives of their JROTC students better.

Those to be honored in March as Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) are **Maria Boyer**, Burroughs; **Guillermina Gil**, Lindbergh; **Connie Ingersol**, Riley; **Maribel Sagal**, Roosevelt; **Maria Sanchez**, Chavez; and **Sandy Shewchuk**, Prisk.

Head Start community partner **Pat Kanakis** was awarded the 2008 California Head Start Association Friend of Head Start Award. Kanakis is employed by ChildNet Behavioral Health Services as a consultant and has been the impetus behind much needed mental health services for select Head Start children and their families.

## Dates to Remember

### March

	American Red Cross Month
	Music in Our Schools Month
	National Middle Level Education Month
	National Nutrition Month
	Social Work Month
	Women's History Month
	Youth Art Month
2	NEA's Read Across America
2-6	Newspaper in Education Week
3	Adoption of U.S. National Anthem
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
5	Black American Day
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "One Fine Day and Take the Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
7	Conservation, Bird & Arbor Day
8	Daylight Savings Time Day
8	International Women's Day
8-14	Girl Scout Week
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Struggle for Women's Rights," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
11	Johnny Appleseed Day
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Benjamin Franklin," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
17	St. Patrick's Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Ask For It," Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 19 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
31	Cesar Chavez Day
31	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Cesar Chavez," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8

## Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services will be accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2009-10 school year. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Transfer request forms will be available at all school sites, the TALB office and the HRS office starting this week.

Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted on the district's website.

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 Tuesday, March 31. Transfer requests will not be accepted after the deadline.

For information about transfers, call ext. 8635.

## Clippers Event

Students from each of the high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District will sing the National Anthem at a March 2 basketball game between the Los Angeles Clippers and the San Antonio Spurs. The event is part of the 2009 Annual Long Beach Unity in the Community Festival.

The event also will serve as a fundraiser for the annual festival, which promotes unity among the many diverse groups of people in Long Beach.

Contact Jorge Rivera regarding fundraising, ticket purchases and additional information about the Unity Festival at 435-3335 or [jrivera@myriverateam.com](mailto:jrivera@myriverateam.com).

## In Memoriam

**Jerold King**  
former teacher  
Jan. 24, 2009

**Greg Mattson**  
substitute teacher  
Feb. 1, 2009

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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