



# school bulletin

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

March 20, 2009



**QUALITY TIME** — Students and their parents work together in the classroom as part of the Toyota Family Literacy Program now up and running at Chavez, King and McKinley elementary schools. Spanish-speaking parents learn to speak English while helping their children to succeed in school.

## Family Literacy Grant Benefits Three Schools

A national family literacy program debuted recently at three Long Beach elementary schools.

Funded by a \$600,000 grant from Toyota, the Toyota Family Literacy Program is now up and running at Chavez, King and McKinley elementary schools.

TFLP is the only initiative of its kind to focus on the needs of Hispanic and other immigrant families on a nationwide basis.

In addition to launching the program at these three schools, the funding will allow the National Center for Family Literacy to provide comprehensive support for training, educational materials and technical assistance at each site. LBUSD is working in partnership with NCFL to implement the family literacy program.

"We deeply appreciate this generous grant from Toyota, and we commend the work of the National Center for Family Literacy," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, LBUSD superintendent. "This grant will help us to increase student achievement in the crucial early grades while getting more parents involved in school," Steinhauer said.

Along with Long Beach, four other cities are part of the latest \$3 million expansion of the literacy program: Springdale, Ark.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Las Cruces, N.M. A total of 191 school districts submitted applications for the five spots.

Created by NCFL, which is the nation's leader in the practice of raising the literacy level of parents and children simultaneously, the program is NCFL's signature initiative. TFLP — which got its start in 2003 and now operates in 25 cities across the U.S. — increases basic language and literacy skills among Hispanic and other immigrant families, and provides parents with the skills they need to help their children succeed in school. It serves

children in kindergarten to third grade and their parents.

Claudia Ramirez, one of the first Long Beach participants along with her son, Jorge, a kindergarten student at King Elementary School, praised the program.

"It has been wonderful for us," Ramirez said. "I was afraid to speak English before we enrolled, and Jorge was so afraid to participate in his class — he wouldn't raise his hand or answer questions. Now, I am a confident English speaker and Jorge is much more comfortable in his kindergarten classroom."

## Obama Likes LBUSD

President Barack Obama likes what the Long Beach Unified School District is doing.

In his first major policy speech on education of his presidency, Obama pointed to the district's data-driven instruction as something other districts across the nation should emulate.

"Of course, raising standards alone will not make much of a difference unless we provide teachers and principals with the information they need to make sure students are prepared to meet those standards," Obama said.

"And far too few states have data systems like the one in Florida that keep track of a student's education from childhood through college. And far too few districts are emulating the example of Houston and Long Beach, and using data to track how much progress a student is making and where that student is struggling.

"That's a resource that can help us improve student achievement . . . so we can assess what's working and what's not. That's why we're making a major investment in this area that will cultivate a new culture of accountability in America's schools," Obama said.

## LBUSD Celebrates College Promise

The Long Beach Unified School District celebrated the first anniversary of its College Promise this week, with more than 15,000 middle school students joining thousands of other students across California who are signing the "Save Me a Spot in College" pledge.

These students pledge to work hard, stay in school, and take the steps they need to make it to college. The State of California promises to uphold its end of the bargain — to make sure there is a spot in college and financial aid available when they get there.

The statewide event coincided with the first anniversary of Long Beach's own College Promise, an agreement signed by the leaders of LBUSD, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach. The agreement promises all students an opportunity to attend college and provides numerous education benefits to help them get there.

As part of the anniversary celebration, 27 eighth graders were awarded college scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$500.

Long Beach is one of the first four school districts in California to launch the state's

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## Local Leaders Form Education Coalition

Local leaders and educators from Long Beach joined forces last week to announce the formation of Unite for Education — Long Beach. The coalition will work on strategies to protect schools from further state budget cuts through a broad-based community effort.

"Enough is enough," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, superintendent of schools. "We potentially have cut, when it's all said and done, up to \$150 million in five years."

Joining in the announcement were the Teachers Association of Long Beach, the California School Employee Association, Mayor Bob Foster, the PTA and leaders of Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach, among others.

"The new state budget has stripped millions from our local schools," said Mike Day, president of the Teachers Association of Long Beach. "Our state already ranks 47th in education funding. These new cuts to our entire public education system will impact a generation of children and young adults and escalate California's race to the bottom in education funding. Now is the time for the Long Beach community to come together and say the cuts stop here."

Also speaking at the event, held at Hill Classical Middle School, were Assemblyman Warren Furutani and Mary Brown, president of the Long Beach School Employees Association.

## Cabrillo Among Top AVID Sites in U.S.

Cabrillo High School joined an elite group of Advancement Via Individual Determination schools recently by becoming a National Demonstration Site.

AVID is an in-school academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success.

The national distinction, shared by only three other schools in the district, validates AVID's schoolwide impact at Cabrillo.

The road to this validation was a collaborative effort among the students and the AVID Site Team, led by coordinator Paula Libby, and the administration.

Preparation for the visit, which included data analysis, classroom observations, and interviews with teachers, parents, and students, began at the AVID Summer Institute.

Among commendations from visitors was Cabrillo's effect on increasing the number of A-G graduates meeting college entrance requirements. Advanced Placement enrollment also was recognized.

Currently serving 265 students, AVID has contributed significantly to the emerging college-going culture on campus. Of Cabrillo's 156 previous AVID graduates, 89 percent have been A-G eligible.

AVID's positive effect can also be seen in the Advanced Placement program as the numbers of course offerings, sections and students have more than tripled in the past five years.

The elective AVID classes emphasize writing, inquiry and collaboration.

## District Celebrates College Promise

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Early Commitment to College program.

"With Early Commitment to College, we are giving California's students the information they need to make it to college, the hope that they can succeed, and the promise from their school and from the state that we will help them to get there," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

ECC creates a new tool for California school districts to motivate and support young people in middle school and high school to achieve academically, finish high school, and pursue career technical or degree programs at community colleges or universities. The bill that created Early Commitment to College, SB 890, was sponsored by the non-profit Campaign for College Opportunity.

ECC is run out of the California Department of Education in collaboration with higher education and financial aid agencies and is voluntary for California school districts. Early Commitment to College builds upon existing programs, but packages these opportunities into one commitment made to students at an early age.

ECC provides school districts a communication tool from the California Department of Education to be used with sixth to ninth grade students and their parents so that they understand the college opportunities and financial aid available to them. The core element of the program is the "Save Me a Spot in College" Pledge, to be signed by students and their parents, outlining their agreement to take the steps to finish high school and prepare for college.

These students would gain access to UC and CSU, if they meet the eligibility requirements and apply. They would be guaranteed the opportunity to attend a California Community College. It is inclusive of career technical and college preparatory classes in middle school and high school, and of career technical and degree programs in college.

The Long Beach College Promise provides a variety of educational benefits and services including: a tuition free semester at Long Beach City College for LBUSD students by 2011; guaranteed admission to CSULB for students who complete minimum college preparatory or minimum community college transfer requirements; and early and continued outreach, with all three institutions beginning student and family outreach services in sixth grade and continuing them through college to ensure college entrance requirements are fulfilled and students are successful.

## Nominate Classified Employee of the Year

Employees may submit nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 24.

The award spotlights outstanding co-workers who support the district's educational mission, demonstrate a commitment to being a team player and positive role model, strive for excellence in job performance, and contribute significantly to the classroom support and/or the business operations of the school district.

Any full-time or part-time permanent classified employee at a district department, school or office is eligible for this honor. The selection committee will not consider self-nominations. Only district classified or certificated employees may nominate a classified employee. Employees who have been nominated before may be nominated again, even if they were finalists in previous years.

Each site will receive a limited quantity of nomination forms which also are available at [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net). Completed nomination forms may be faxed to 435-1018 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists will be announced at the Classified Employee Celebration at the Teacher Resource Center on Thursday, May 21. The winner will be presented at the Board of Education meeting held Tuesday, June 2.

## Dates to Remember

April	
	Keep America Beautiful Month
	Mathematics Education Month
1	April Fools Day
1-7	Labor History Week
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
2	International Children's Book Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
6	California Poppy Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
9-10	Passover, First Days
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "No Time to Waste!," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
12-18	National Library Week
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
13-17	Spring Recess
13-15	Cambodian New Year
13-19	Young People's Poetry Week
14	Pan American Day
15-16	Passover, Concluding Days
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
19-25	Administrative Professionals Week
19-25	National Student Leadership Week
19-25	Public School Volunteer Week
19-25	Week of the Young Child
20-24	Public Schools Week
20-26	National TV-Turnoff Week
21	Holocaust Remembrance Day
21	John Muir Day
21	Open House - Middle Schools
22	Administrative Professionals Day
22	Earth Day USA
22	Open House - High Schools
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 23 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 30 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
23	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
23	Open House - Elementary Schools
24	National Arbor Day
24-26	Global Youth Service Week
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8

## In Memoriam

### Susan Humphrey

former teacher  
Feb. 5, 2009

### Richard Jones

former teacher  
March 3, 2009

### James Zarifes

former Board of Education member  
March 3, 2009

### Judi McEachen

former principal  
March 9, 2009

## SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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## Transfer Requests

Teachers interested in a transfer for the 2009-10 school year must submit a transfer request form to HRS on or before Tuesday, March 31. Transfer requests will not be accepted after the deadline.

A list of vacancies are now posted at all school sites, the TALB office, the HRS office and on the HRS website.

Employees will be notified about the status of their transfer requests before the end of the 2008-09 school year. For information about transfers, call ext. 8635.