



school bulletin

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

January 23, 2009



IT'S A GRIND — Jesse James uses a grinder on a customized motorcycle at his Long Beach shop. The Millikan alum is raising funds for industrial arts classes such as auto shop and welding. James recently donated \$60,000 to the nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation.

Photo courtesy of West Coast Choppers.

Tincher Prep Named a 'School to Watch'

After achieving significant gains in student performance, Tincher Preparatory School has become the first Long Beach school, and the first K-8 school in the state, to be named a "School to Watch" by the California Middle Grades Alliance.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell recently announced that Tincher and only two other schools statewide earned the honor.

"Congratulations to all the students, their teachers and administrators, and the parents who are working hard to make these schools examples of educational excellence," O'Connell said.

Tincher was recognized for its success in four areas: implementing best practices focused on academic achievement; responding to the developmental needs of adolescents; offering an equitable education for all students; and instituting processes and procedures that sustain academic growth.

To be named a Schools To Watch-Taking Center Stage designee, schools must have met all state Academic Performance Index growth targets for the previous three years. Tincher also conducted a rigorous self-study and completed a narrative application. A team of experts visited Tincher in December.

"They liked what they saw in regard to the culture of our school, the academic success, the teamwork of staff, and the partnership between the parents, the kids and the staff," said Tincher Principal Bill Vogel. Tincher's API score rose 46 points schoolwide in the past three years. In that time, the African American subgroup narrowed the achievement gap by 24 points, and Latinos by 62 points. Tincher is a diverse school with more than 50 percent of its students designated as disadvantaged. This subgroup has improved by 53 points over the same period. Tincher's API score stands at 845, well above California's target of 800.

(Continued on next page)

Celeb Jesse James Raises Funds for Schools

Local business owner and celebrity Jesse James recently donated \$60,000 to the Long Beach Education Foundation and will attempt to raise more funds during an upcoming appearance on NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice 2." The initial donation already is one of the largest that the foundation has ever received.

James owns West Coast Choppers, a custom motorcycle and car shop in Long Beach, and its nearby restaurant Cisco Burger. He also was host of the popular Discovery Channel show,

"Monster Garage."

The donated funds will go toward classes such as auto shop and welding at the middle and high school levels.

"These are classes that kids want to take," James said. "Somebody needed to step up and do something to give these kids the opportunity to learn some skills."

James attended Millikan High School and became aware of his talents by taking such classes. He attributes his success to an influential high school teacher.

In 2008, the Education Foundation raised more than \$1million for the school district. Its purpose is to help make certain that all students in the district receive the education they need to succeed.

"Celebrity Apprentice 2" will air at 9 p.m. Sunday, March 1 on NBC.

For more information about the foundation, call 997-8254 or go to www.lbschools.net and click on Long Beach Education Foundation in the A-Z index.

STAR Schools Make Significant Strides

The Board of Education recently recognized 10 elementary schools with STAR Awards for significant gains in student achievement.

This year's winners are Burnett, Burroughs, Carver, Cleveland, Fremont, Gant, International, Lafayette, Naples and Prisk elementary schools.

The STAR Award (Student success Terrific teaching Academic Results) is based upon four critical components:

- Tripling the state Academic Performance Index growth target;
- Meeting or exceeding federal Adequate Yearly Progress criteria;
- Advancing the achievement of the lowest performing sub-group of students at the school;
- Advancing the achievement of English Language Learners at the school.

Winning schools exhibited "high expectations for students, teaching that is focused on rigor and differentiation, collaboration, ongoing parent communication, reflective staff and strong school leadership," said Jill Baker, assistant superintendent for elementary schools.

Six 'Trusted Centers' Boost College Aid

The Long Beach Unified School District has partnered with a federal agency and local community organizations to open six "trusted centers" where students can receive free help completing financial aid applications.

"This is a perfect illustration of how, despite the fiscal crisis, we're bringing in extra resources without any additional cost to the district," said Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools.

The U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid selected Long Beach as one of three cities nationwide to participate in the pilot program. The aim in Long Beach is to increase Latino enrollment in college,

though any student may use the centers. Statewide, 18 to 24-year-old Latinos are the least likely to have entered college. More than half of students in LBUSD schools are Latino.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starts the process to qualify for all federal and government-guaranteed student aid programs, as well as for many regional, state and institutional student aid programs.

Last year, more than 1,800 seniors here completed the application. This year, the goal is to help 3,000 students complete the application. About 90 percent of students start to complete the FAFSA, but many do not

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PILOT PROJECT — Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster joins Jordan and Poly high schools' GEAR UP Coordinator Jan Jones at Centro CHA (Community Hispanic Association) for a news conference announcing the opening of six centers that will help students apply for financial aid. Three of the six centers are at Long Beach schools.

• School to Watch

(Continued from first page)
The other two winners this year are Clark Intermediate School in Fresno's Clovis Unified School District, and Dartmouth Middle School in Santa Clara County's Union School District. This year's winners will be recognized at the March 13 to 15 California League of Middle Schools conference in San Diego.

Free/Reduced Lunch

Due to current economic conditions, some families are enduring new financial hardships. Applications for free or reduced-price meals may be submitted at any time during the school year. The confidential information provided on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility. Applications are available at each school's office or cafeteria.

Parents also may contact Nutrition Services at (562) 427-7923, ext. 229 or 230.

Names in the News

In attendance at the inauguration of President Barack Obama were Cabrillo students **Francis Mascarina, Samantha Myers, Victoria Acebedo, Mitzzy Cuevas, Lenard Hannigan, Krystal McCloud, Katrina McCloud and Adam Lane.** Each raised \$2,000 to make the four-day trip, which included touring Washington, D.C. Cabrillo Advanced Placement U.S. history teacher **Brady Garrett** chaperoned.

Dates to Remember

February	
	Black History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	National Freedom Day
1	Groundhog Day
2	LBUSD/City of Long Beach Groundhog Job Shadow Day
2-6	National School Counseling Week
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
9	Lincoln Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Presidents' Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	St. Valentine's Day
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15-21	Take Your Family to School Week
16	Presidents' Day
16	Washington Day
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
25 - Apr. 11	Lent
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Dr. Seuss—Cat in the Hat," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8

• Trusted Financial Aid Centers Now Open

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complete it because of its complexity. The pilot project aligns with the district's Academic and Career Success Initiative, which aims to increase college and career readiness. The FAFSA project may help college enrollment numbers rise faster than ever here. Already, between 2004 and 2007, the number of LBUSD students enrolling in four-year colleges grew by 37% — an accomplishment that

bucks statewide trends. Many Latino parents hesitate to complete the form because they don't want to share personal financial information with institutions, said Jessica Quintana, executive director of Centro CHA, a local organization that is hosting one of the centers. LBUSD has recruited at least 65 volunteers to staff the centers and is hosting several volunteer training sessions.

These locations provide trained volunteers who can help families apply for financial aid:

Name	Phone	Address	Days Available	Times Available
Avalon High School	(310) 510-0790	200 Falls Canyon Rd.	Wed-Thurs	3:30 – 5 p.m.
Centro CHA, Inc.	(562) 570-4722	727 Pine Ave.	Mon-Thurs (Sat Workshop TBA)	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Jordan High School (Career Center)	423-1471 ext. 2255	6500 Atlantic Ave.	Mon-Fri	8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Long Beach City College (EOPS)	938-3951	4901 E. Carson St.	Mon-Fri Sat by appt.	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Poly High School Library (Hicks Gallery)	997-8000 ext. 5188	1600 Atlantic Ave.	Mon-Tues	1:45 – 3:45 p.m.
Second Samoan UCC	(562) 628-9282	655 Cedar Ave.	Tues & Thurs by appt.	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Boy Baby Boom

Six Signal Hill teachers and the director of the afterschool WRAP program have been pregnant this school year. So far, all of the babies have been boys, including a set of twins. Two more baby boys are due in June.

Retirement Event

Honoree Kathie Grubb
Date Feb. 19
Contact Karen Periman
ext. 7145

In Memoriam

Vivian Kendrick
CDC teacher, Hudson and Webster
Jan. 6, 2009

Kieth Cagan
teacher, Wilson
Jan. 7, 2009

Diane Brown
principal, Wilson
Jan. 20, 2009

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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