



school bulletin

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

May 1, 2009

LBUSD Again Among Top Five School Systems in Nation

For a record-tying fifth time, the Long Beach Unified School District was named among the top five school systems in the nation by The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation.

Long Beach now will compete with four other districts for public education's largest prize, The Broad Prize for Urban Education, which will be announced on September 16 in Washington, D.C. Only Boston Public Schools shares the distinction of reaching the finals every year that it has been eligible for the award.

The top winner receives \$1 million in student scholarships, while the other four remaining finalists receive \$250,000 each. School districts cannot apply for the annual award.

Instead, an independent panel reviews vast amounts of student achievement data from 100 big-city school districts nationwide. Of these 100 school systems, only five are chosen as finalists.

"Long Beach's commitment to students continues to bear fruit," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "It is a remarkable achievement to be recognized yet again as one of the top school systems in the country, especially during such challenging fiscal times. We deeply appreciate the hard work of our teachers, parents, support staff, administrators, Board of Education and countless business and community partners. Together we're defying the odds and building brighter futures for every student, every day."

Among the reasons for Long Beach's selection was that, in 2008, its African-American, Hispanic and low-income students achieved higher average proficiency rates than their counterparts statewide in reading and math at all grade levels: elementary, middle and high school. Between 2005 and 2008, Long Beach narrowed achievement gaps between its Hispanic students and the state's white students in math at all grade levels, as well as in middle and high school reading. Moreover, between 2006 and 2008, Long Beach increased both the participation rate and the average score for Hispanic students taking the SAT.

Swine Flu Information

In light of recent media coverage about swine flu, the Long Beach Unified School District has taken numerous proactive measures to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff members.

The district web site, www.lbschools.net, has a special page that provides the latest information on swine flu. It also contains an archive of all communications to families, as
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STIMULUS FUNDS DRAW CLOSER TO LBUSD — During a recent press conference at Cabrillo High School, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced that California is the first state in the nation to receive stimulus dollars. The Long Beach Unified School District immediately applied for its share of the funds.



CAMS, Hill Named Distinguished Schools

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science and Hill Classical Middle School have been selected as 2009 California

Distinguished Schools, an annual award for the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools.

CAMS and Hill are among 261 winners announced recently by Jack O'Connell, state superintendent of public instruction. These schools will be recognized on May 29 during a ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel.

This year, the extensive selection process required sites to highlight two "signature" practices that directly impact student success and can be replicated elsewhere. Teams of

experts then visited the schools to gather additional evidence about the effectiveness of these practices.

California Distinguished Schools "have shown they are able to increase the achievement of all their students and have provided evidence that they are closing the achievement gaps," O'Connell said. The dual emphasis on overall performance and achievement gap closure mirrors the criteria for The Broad Prize, a national award honoring urban school systems, for which the Long Beach Unified School District is again a finalist.

Of California's nearly 2,400 middle and high schools, only 341 met the Distinguished Schools eligibility criteria based on their student achievement. This short list of eligible schools eventually shrank to 261 winners – 136 middle schools and 125 high schools.

Over the years, a total of 38 LBUSD schools have earned Distinguished School recognition. Both CAMS and Hill are repeat winners.



Hamilton's Welch-Kitchen Wins National Honor

Hamilton Middle School's Racquel Welch-Kitchen was one of 25 teachers to be honored with the 2009 MetLife Foundation Ambassadors in Education Award.

This recognition, presented by the National Civic League, highlights teacher leadership in building bridges between local schools and communities. It comes with a \$5,000 grant for each recipient's school.

Welch-Kitchen was selected in part for launching the Career and Leadership program at Hamilton, a semester-long class in which students investigate careers, go on field trips to local government agencies, engage in leader-

ship development activities, and use technology to participate in virtual job shadowing.

Additionally, Welch-Kitchen was recognized for facilitating community meetings and collaborating with nonprofit groups.

Principal David Downing noted that, through all of these efforts, Welch-Kitchen has helped students "increase their involvement in the community."

The Ambassadors in Education Award was established in 2003 to address the gap between public schools and their local areas. It is intended to honor educators whose influence
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Wilson's Top Ham Earns Scholarship

Dean LaBarba, senior at Wilson Classical High School, was selected to receive the William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship. Only one ham radio operator in the nation is selected for this honor each year, which will provide \$10,000 or more annually for the next four years.



LaBarba

Dean's outstanding community service as a member of the Wilson Amateur Radio Emergency Communication team helped him to finalist status for the scholarship.

He joined the team as a freshman shortly after he became an FCC approved Technician's Class radio operator. He has been active in the club during all four years of high school, helping to recruit and train other Wilson students in the use of the school's mobile amateur radio station and emergency procedures in the event of a disaster. Dean developed leadership and communication skills in his four years as mem-

ber and captain of the team.

Dean plans to attend Westmont College in Santa Barbara. He intends to major in the sciences as a pre-med student. He hopes to continue his emergency radio training within Westmont College and the Santa Barbara community.

Recently, Dean upgraded his license to General Class, which represents a giant step up in operating privileges. With this license, he may operate on high frequency bands, allowing him to reach other countries and much of the United States. In the meantime, Dean and the AREC team have been given permission to use the radio room at the Shoreline Yacht Club and plan on being guest operators on ARALB's club station, W6RO, onboard the RMS Queen Mary.

The scholarship is the result of a generous endowment from the late William Goldfarb. Before his death, Goldfarb set up close to \$1 million in scholarship money in memory of his parents, Albert and Dorothy Goldfarb, who both died when William was a teenager.

• MetLife Award

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can be felt beyond classrooms and hallways.

Middle and high school educators in participating districts are eligible and are nominated by peers, parents, students, or community members. Winners are ultimately selected by a national panel of education and civic experts.



Each year, the Ambassadors in Education Award alternates recognition between **Welch-Kitchen** teachers and principals. Previous Long Beach winners include teacher Fay Tracy of Newcomb and teacher Devon Day and principal Lew Kerns of Wilson.

• Swine Flu

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well as links to additional resources.
LBUSD is working closely with the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. All of our nurses have recently been trained by city health officials on flu sample testing procedures.

Everyone is encouraged to take basic precautionary steps, such as washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes carefully, staying at least three feet away from those who are sick, and remaining calm at all times.

The Job Board

- Millikan High School is interviewing for a QUEST math position to teach AP-level classes. Deadline is May 8. Contact Don Keller, co-principal, at ext. 4102 if interested in interviewing for this position.
- Bixby Elementary School will be interviewing candidates for a second grade GATE position for teachers with GATE certification or working towards certification. Those interested should bring a letter of interest and a current resume to an information meeting on Monday, May 11, 3:45 p.m. at Bixby's auditorium. For more information, call Juan Gutierrez, principal, at ext. 6600.

Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Paper Sculpture," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
1-7	National Physical Education Week
3-9	Teacher Appreciation Week
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
5	National Teacher Day
5	Cinco de Mayo
6	National School Nurse Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Southeast Asia: How Does Change Occur?," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
10	Mothers Day
11-17	National Children's Book Week
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
13	California Day of the Teacher
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
16	Science Fair
16	Armed Forces Day
18-22	Classified Employee Week
20	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
22	Classified Employee Day
25	Memorial Day
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 28 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8

Help Science Fair?

The Long Beach Unified School District Science Fair is looking for volunteers to help judge and run this year's event, which will be held Saturday, May 16.

To help put on the nation's third largest science fair, a community-supported event involving no use of public funds and drawing approximately 1,400 entries, call ext. 2964.

Coffee With Chris

The Long Beach Unified Family Committee will meet Monday, May 11 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Cabrillo High School library.

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

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Nancy Young	May 14	Tammy Lavelle 439-6897, ext. 120
Cynthia Terry	May 29	Helen Satorius ext. 7740

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- JON MEYER, President
- MARY STANTON, Vice President
- DAVID BARTON, Member
- MICHAEL ELLIS, Member
- FELTON WILLIAMS, Member
- KIARA MARTIN, Student Member

In Memoriam

Esther Smith
former braille transcriber
Nov. 24, 2008

Eleazar Salinas
former custodian
Jan. 9, 2009

Bill Whitaker
former principal
March 5, 2009

Richard Mauszycki
former custodian
March 18, 2009

Teresa Gonzalez-Sadlowski
program specialist, elementary schools
March 27, 2009

Helen Ashkenaze
former teacher
March 31, 2009

Margaret Herivel
former principal
April 6, 2009