



# school bulletin

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

November 20, 2009

## Long Beach Pursues Race to Top Funding

With California poised to receive as much as \$700 million in federal education funds pending certain actions by the state Legislature, the Long Beach Unified School District is working to secure as much of that funding as possible.

The Board of Education's recently revised list of legislative priorities specifically references efforts to secure federal Race to the Top funding. Upon a special request by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the school district recently submitted a letter of support that helped the State Senate to pass key legislation designed to make California more competitive for the much needed federal funding.

"Our schools cannot compete in the race if they never leave the starting line," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser stated in his recent letter to State Sen. Gloria Romero, chair of the Senate Education Committee. "I deeply appreciate your efforts to give our schools and our children a fighting chance."

The state's Race to the Top legislation now goes to the state State Assembly.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration proposed a series of reforms as part of the \$4.3 billion in competitive grants, known as Race to the Top.

Federal officials released the final guidelines for funding eligibility this month, so states have less than 60 days to apply for funding. The deadline is mid-January.

States will be judged on a 500-point scale that will measure their plans to enact a variety of reforms. Among the highest profile reforms is the effective implementation of student data systems.

President Obama already has recognized exemplary data systems that Long Beach has implemented in collaboration with its teachers to improve student achievement.

"If we're being recognized on a national stage for our reforms," Steinhauser said, "then we deserve these funds as much as anyone else does."

"It's time for the state and federal governments to recognize and reward our innovation."

## Saturday H1N1 Clinic To Serve Kids, Adults

Thousands of parents continue to take advantage of free vaccinations for their children as the Long Beach Unified School District hosts flu shot clinics to combat the H1N1 virus. Another clinic is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 21 at Millikan High School.

The Millikan clinic will serve adults and children.

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**PITCHING IN** — At the request of parents, the Long Beach Education Foundation has made it easy to donate to the school of one's choice. Click on the piggy bank at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). All funds go toward helping local schools cope with more budget cuts.

## Pitching In to Ease the Pain of Budget Cuts

As California's fiscal crisis worsens, school districts throughout the state face huge budget cuts to vital programs. Roughly 20,000 teachers have lost their jobs statewide this year. Long Beach schools have cut \$100 million in the past five years and must cut \$90 million more over the next two years.

To ease the pain of state budget cuts, the Long Beach Unified School District asked local voters this month whether they were willing to pay 25 cents a day to preserve high quality schools. Though voters rejected this proposal, known as Measure T, nearly 14,000 people voted in favor of the measure. Many parents, employees and neighbors have since asked whether they can donate their 25 cents a day anyway. The answer is yes, and the non-profit Long Beach Education Foundation is making it easier than ever to lend a hand.

With a few online clicks, secure, tax deductible donations may be made to the school of one's choice, or simply to LBUSD. Visit [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) and click on the

piggy bank. Those who donate can rest assured that their personal information will never be shared with anyone else, and they'll immediately receive an e-mailed receipt for tax write-off purposes. Funds will be handled by the non-profit Foundation and will go toward:

- Maintaining smaller class sizes;
- Maintaining vocational/career technical job training and college prep programs;
- Preserving essential high quality academic offerings, including English, math, social studies, history, computer technology and science;
- Preserving arts, music and sports;
- Preserving after-school programs to keep children off the streets and away from gangs, drugs and crime;
- Preserving students' access to school libraries.

Tax deductible checks also may be written to: Long Beach Education Foundation. Checks should be mailed to Long Beach Education Foundation, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810.

## New Report Calls LBUSD a National Leader

A recent report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Center for American Progress and the American Enterprise Institute singles out the Long Beach Unified School District as an effectively managed school system.

The report, "Leaders and Laggards," grades the 50 states on various aspects of their educational systems, and it notes a few promising leaders in educational reform.

"Today, various organizations are addressing stubborn challenges by pursuing familiar notions of good teaching and effective schooling in impressively coherent, disciplined, and strategic ways," the report states. "Some are public school districts, such as Long Beach Unified School District in California."

Even these "marquee reformers," however, struggle to raise funds and secure support, the

report continues.

In many respects the recent troubles of the auto and newspaper industries provide a cautionary tale for today's education policymakers nationwide, according to the report:

"Analysts predicted structural challenges in both industries for decades. Outside consultants urged major change. Yet altering entrenched practices at businesses from General Motors to the now-defunct *Rocky Mountain News* proved enormously difficult. And the results of inaction for both organizations were disastrous. The same must not happen to our nation's education system. The stakes are just too high."

See the full report at [www.american-progress.org](http://www.american-progress.org). Type "Leaders and Laggards" in the search field.

## Cambodian Literacy Effort Gets Results

The Cambodian Family Literacy Program, a collaboration between the Cambodian Association of America and the Long Beach Unified School District, recently reported significant gains in student achievement.

The program aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and low literacy among low-income Cambodian immigrants by providing English as a Second Language instruction and Parenting and Early Childhood Education to at least 30 families each year.

All of the kindergarten through third grade students attending the program met math standards, and 95 percent met reading standards as measured by report cards or standardized test scores. Most of these students had participated in the program since they were in preschool.

The program is funded through the California Department of Education's Even Start Office and was established in 2001. Families participate to enhance children's literacy. All of the participating adults and children are English language learners, with 92 percent living below the federal poverty level.

The literacy program operates at Whittier Elementary School during weekdays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Kirsten Trefflich at 988-1863, ext. 236.

## Melody Ross Fund

A charitable fund established to assist the family of Melody Ross, the student who died in a recent shooting near Wilson Classical High School, has attracted more than \$6,600 in online donations. Many of the donations were contributed by employees of the Long Beach Unified School District.

The nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation established the fund to assist with funeral costs and other family expenses.

Donations are still being accepted. Go to [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net) and click on Melody Ross Memorial Trust Account in the A-Z index, or make donation checks payable to the Long Beach Education Foundation, with "Melody Ross Memorial Trust Account" noted on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Long Beach Education Foundation, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810.

## Open Enrollment

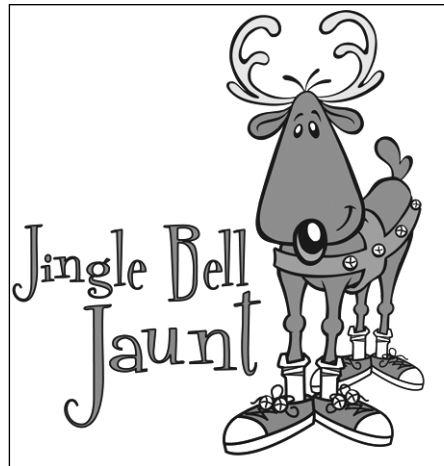
Open Enrollment, which continues through Monday, Nov. 30, is the one opportunity each year for employees to change current benefits, add or remove dependents from benefit plans, or enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA) for next year.

An enrollment packet was mailed to each employee's home.

## Address Changes For W-2s Due Dec. 1

W-2 tax forms will be mailed no later than Jan. 31, 2010. Employees should notify the school district of any name or address changes. The deadline to submit a change-of-address form is Dec. 1.

Contact Payroll at ext. 8012 for information.



## Gazette's Fun Run to Benefit Local Schools

The *Grunion Gazette* presents the first Jingle Bell Jaunt Fun Run, a one-mile race on Saturday, Dec. 5 to kick off the holiday season on 2nd Street in Belmont Shore, right before the annual Belmont Shore Christmas Parade.

Proceeds will benefit the Long Beach Education Foundation's Spirit of Sue Fund so that local schools or classes can apply for grants of \$200 to \$1,000 for health and fitness activities. Some proceeds also will go toward the inception of an annual \$500 Melody Ross Memorial Scholarship.

Starting times are 5:30 p.m. for adults and 6 p.m. for children. The run starts at the Gazette Newspapers office, 5225 E. 2nd St. in Long Beach.

Participants are encouraged to dress up in holiday costume and run in front of more than 40,000 cheering people. They're also encouraged to "get silly" and "be creative," according to an event flier.

"Be an elf, snowman, tree, reindeer, candle, menorah, wreath, turkey, ham... or Santa!" the flier states.

Each runner will wear jingle bells on their shoes to add to the festivities. Prizes will go to the top three male, female and kids' race finishers as well as to the runners with the best costumes.

Registration is \$25 before Nov. 30 and includes a T-shirt and jingle bells to attach to shoes, plus a gift to be provided at the end of the event. Register online only at [www.gazettes.com](http://www.gazettes.com).

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## • H1N1 Vaccinations

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Parents and guardians must accompany their children and sign consent forms in person.

The clinic will be held by the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Similar clinics, held recently at Cabrillo, Jordan and Wilson high schools and at the Long Beach Convention Center, have attracted thousands of parents and their children.

The school district has worked closely with the city's Health Department to plan the local clinics. LBUSD, however, is neither requiring nor recommending H1N1 vaccination for students but is simply hosting clinics for parents' convenience.

Anyone with questions about the vaccine should speak with their doctor.

For more information about the H1N1 virus, visit [www.longbeach.gov/health](http://www.longbeach.gov/health).

## Band Spectacular Set For Tuesday Evening

The 25th annual Long Beach Unified School District High School Band Spectacular is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the Cabrillo High School Stadium. This exciting and colorful event will showcase marching bands from Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson high schools along with the Long Beach City College Viking Show Band.

Each band will present its 2009 field show. Dance, drill and tall flag teams from the schools also will be featured. The evening culminates with a special performance by the combined bands.

Tickets are available in advance from high school band members or at the gate on the evening of the performance. The suggested donation is \$5. All proceeds benefit local high school band programs.

## Dates to Remember

### December

1	World AIDS Day
10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30	— "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
9	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
12-19	Hanukkah
15	Bill of Rights Day
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
21	First Day of Winter
21-Jan. 1	Winter Recess
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day
25	Clara Barton's Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
29	Wounded Knee Massacre Anniversary