



school bulletin

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

October 23, 2009

Measure T

\$60 Million at Stake For LBUSD Nov. 3

Facing huge budget cuts due to the state's fiscal crisis, the Long Beach Unified School District will ask local voters on Nov. 3 whether they are willing to pay 25 cents a day to preserve high quality schools. Voters in Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill and on Catalina Island will decide on Measure T, which requires a two-thirds majority for approval.

The school district already has cut more than \$100 million during the past five years and must cut as much as \$90 million more over the next two years, due to multi-billion-dollar state cuts to education.

If approved, Measure T would go toward retaining teachers and maintaining smaller class sizes, particularly in elementary schools. Funds also would go toward:

- 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 programs;
- Preserving after-school programs to keep children off the streets and away from gangs, drugs and crime;
- Preserving students' access to school libraries;
- Protecting property values and the taxpayers' investment in education.

The formally titled Classroom Teacher, Student Safety and Education Measure would levy a \$92 annual education parcel tax for five years. The annual fee amounts to about 25 cents a day and would generate about \$12 million a year for LBUSD.

The measure would require exemptions for senior citizens who are 65 and older. No money would go to administrators' salaries, and the measure calls for citizens' oversight of expenditures.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. Voters also may apply to vote by mail until Oct. 27.

Go to www.lavote.net and click on "Voter and Election Information" for information.

Thai Officials Visit

A delegation from Thailand's Ministry of Energy visited this week to learn more about energy instruction here.

The delegation met at Gompers Elementary School to discuss the National Energy Education Development project and observe Jim Wilkie's eighth grade science class. Wilkie is a member of the NEED Teacher Advisory Board and previous winner of a British Petroleum A+ for Energy grant.

HELLO KITTY — Cabrillo High School's jaguar mascot greets superintendents for a day Jack O'Connell, F. King Alexander and Eloy Ortiz Oakley. The three education experts shadowed LBUSD Supt. Chris Steinhauer during the annual Principals for a Day event, which attracted more than 200 business and community leaders.



Principals for Day See Successes, Challenges

More than 200 guest principals from businesses and community organizations recently shadowed principals in the Long Beach Unified School District. Following their day at school, the Principals for a Day gathered for a debriefing at Cal State Long Beach, where many described great successes and challenges in local schools.

Honorary superintendents for the day were State Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell, CSULB President F. King Alexander and Long Beach City College Superintendent-President Eloy Oakley.

LBUSD earned praise from O'Connell, who addressed the audience during the debriefing at CSULB's Carpenter Performing Arts Center.

"This is an outstanding district," O'Connell said. "It's an outstanding team here, and your approach absolutely has to be replicated."

The annual event allows business and com-

munity leaders to become principals for a day at elementary, middle and high schools to observe students, teachers and the operations of California's third largest school district. Numerous business partnerships with schools have begun as a result of the event.

Former Long Beach Mayor Eunice Sato served as Principal for a Day this year at Longfellow Elementary School.

"This is my sixth time as Principal for a Day," Sato told the audience at CSULB. "But I've never been so impressed. The schools are doing so much with what they have, which is so little. Our schools are really cut to the bone, and there's not much more we can take away without closing them down."

Co-chairing this year's event were Mike Murray, president of the Long Beach Education Foundation, and Henry Fung, immediate past president of the foundation.

Combating the No. 1 Cause of Absenteeism

Some Long Beach Unified School District students may soon be breathing a little easier, thanks to the UCLA Breathmobile, an asthma clinic on wheels that provides free diagnosis, treatment, medication and education for children with asthma.

Asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism among children, accounting for more than 14 million absences nationwide each year.

Staffed by a physician, a registered nurse and a patient-service worker, the RV-style Breathmobile will visit schools in Long Beach starting this month, with follow-up visits every six to eight weeks.

Twelve Breathmobiles operate throughout Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. They visit more than 200 elementary, middle and high schools, as well as several comprehensive health clinics in Southern California.

Evaluation studies have demonstrated dramatic improvement for patients treated by the Breathmobile, including fewer emergency room visits, improved pulmonary function, a decrease in school absenteeism and an improved quality of life.

Asthma is the most common chronic condition among children, affecting nearly 5 million youngsters under the age of 18.

Volunteers, Donors Rescue Poly North

Camp counselors at Poly North are so committed to their work that when their budget was eliminated, they began forgoing their pay and raising private donations to keep the 36-year-old camp going. The counselors and their colleagues succeeded, as their first human relations camp of the year accommodated 150 sophomores last weekend in Big Bear.

Poly North's funding had been eliminated due to budget cuts as a result of the state's ongoing fiscal crisis. The camp, held at the YMCA's Camp Oakes, offers Poly High School students team-building and cultural awareness activities.

"It's part of Poly's culture," said Robert Shock, Poly dean of students and director of Poly North. "It helps us deal with many of the issues we face on such a large, diverse campus - issues of race and the differences students may have with one another. We knew we couldn't just let it go."

When the school learned of the loss of funding about a year ago, Poly staff members and students raised about \$20,000 to keep the program going. The school partnered with restaurants to raise money, and two Poly alumni donated \$5,000 each. About 15 camp counselors agreed to work without their usual annual stipends of about \$1,200 each.

Two more camps are planned for this school year (one fewer than last year). Budget reductions also forced the school to raise the fees charged to students attending the camp from \$30 last year to \$80 this year, but some of the recently raised funds go toward assisting students whose families cannot cover the entire fee.

Poly North continues to seek donations. Checks are payable to Poly High School and should be designated for Poly North. Mail checks to the high school at 1600 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813.

Open Enrollment

With open enrollment being held this year during November, employees looking to get the most from their district health benefits may want to attend the upcoming Long Beach Unified School District Health Fair.

The fair will be held 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in the Long Beach School For Adults Auditorium, 3701 E. Willow St. Attendees can find answers to health and wellness questions, learn how to manage health plans and live healthier lives, and win prizes. No reservation is required to attend.

Open Enrollment will be held Nov. 1 to 30. It 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 is being mailed to each employee's home address, timed to arrive in the last week of October.

Coffee Cancelled

The Nov. 12 meeting of the Long Beach Unified Family Committee, also known as "Coffee With Chris," has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14 at the Cabrillo High School Library.

Dates to Remember

November	American Indian Heritage Month
	Child Safety & Protection Month
	Standard Time Day
1	Election Day
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 - "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
11	Veterans Day
11-17	Youth Appreciation Week
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
15-21	American Education Week
18	Education Support Professionals Day
15-21	Geography Awareness Week
16-23	Conference Days - Elementary Schools
17	National Community Education Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "Pilgrims At Plymouth," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 - "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19	Gettysburg Address Anniversary
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 - "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 - "William Bradford, The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
26	Thanksgiving Day
27	Declared Holiday
30	Mark Twain's Birthday

Donate Your Soloist

The Soloist, written by *Los Angeles Times* columnist Steve Lopez, will be the featured selection for the March 2010 citywide reading project, Long Beach Reads One Book.

Anyone who has read *The Soloist* and would like to donate their copy of the book to a local high school may bring their copy to any LBUSD school library. The book will be forwarded to a high school for classroom use.

Long Beach Reads One Book, a project of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation, brings people together and raises standards of literacy by encouraging everyone in Long Beach to read the same book at the same time.

In Memoriam

Carrie Couch
recreation aide, Lincoln
Oct. 12, 2009

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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LBUSD Waiting for Swine Flu Vaccines

The Long Beach Unified School District plans to offer free H1N1 (swine flu) vaccinations at various schools in early November but is awaiting arrival of the vaccine before committing to a schedule for the clinics. Large-scale distribution of the vaccine has been hampered by delays nationwide.

Meanwhile, the school district has worked closely with the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services to plan the local clinics. Once the vaccines arrive, the clinics will be offered both during the school day and after hours at selected schools throughout the district.

The clinic schedule will be based upon a September parent survey. LBUSD is neither requiring nor recommending H1N1 vaccination for students but is simply planning to host the clinics for parents' convenience.

Beach Walk Saturday For Children's Clinic

Students, staff and parents in the Long Beach Unified School District will help raise funds for the non-profit Children's Clinic of Long Beach by participating in a 5K walk this Saturday, Oct. 24 at the Marina Green in downtown Long Beach.

Registration starts at 8 a.m., and the walk begins at 9 a.m.

Proceeds help to provide low- and no-cost health care for children.

Visit www.thechildrensclinic.org or call 933-6635 for more information.

Names in the News

Tincher Preparatory School earned a \$3,000 grant from the National Association of Elementary Principals and MetLife. The school will use the funds to make it easier for non-neighborhood parents of students to come to Tincher. Principal **Bill Vogel** and technology coordinator **Tim Schugt** submitted the successful application.

CDC Subs Needed

Local Child Development Centers are accepting applications for substitute teachers for pre-school, school-age and infant-toddler child care programs.

For more information, go to Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at www.lbschools.net and click on Employment Opportunities, then Child Development Centers.

To request an application, call 422-6868.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for administrative secretary, intermediate office assistant-bilingual Spanish, intermediate office assistant-schools-bilingual Spanish, and physician services technician.