



school bulletin

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

October 8, 2010

Booster Shots Urged As Pertussis Spreads

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed a law that makes a pertussis booster (tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis, or TDaP) mandatory for all students in grades seven to 12 starting next year.

Health officials, however, urge middle and high school parents not to wait until the law takes effect.

The new law comes in response to a pertussis outbreak that started in California last spring. The statewide increase includes three confirmed cases and several suspected cases in local schools.

TDaP is required before children enter elementary school, but the protection decreases over time. A TDaP booster is recommended for adults and children 10 and older.

Pertussis, known as whooping cough, is spread by coughing or sneezing. It causes a severe, long-lasting cough in adolescents and adults. Complications are rare in this age group, but are more common in infants who become infected before they are vaccinated. Nine deaths due to pertussis have been reported in the state this year, all in infants less than three months old.

TDaP is available through local healthcare providers and at the Long Beach Health Department. Appointments at the Health Department may be made at 570-4315.

For more information, call 570-4212 or visit www.longbeach.gov/health.

We Have Liftoff!

Tune into the Science Channel at 6 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 9 to watch eight California Academy of Mathematics and Science students design, build and launch a 29-foot, 500-pound rocket into the stratosphere at Mach 2.8, almost three times the speed of sound.

During the summer, CAMS students Ian Goegebuier, Karina Simpson, Kevin Hsu, Christopher Walsvick, Ezinna Nnabue, Julia Fees, Steven Jorgensen and Vanessa Lopez traveled to Black Rock, Nev. to launch their rocket 147,000 feet into the air.

After the launch, one student accepted a job designing rocket software. Another student headed to MIT to study robotics engineering. Sponsored by Sony, the program is planned for replication at 28 schools worldwide.

Meet the student team and watch a video of the launch at discover.sonystyle.com/rocket.

CAMS, a high school run by the Long Beach Unified School District on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills, placed 22nd out of 21,000 public high schools nationwide in last year's U.S. News and World Report ranking of America's top high schools.

Learn more about CAMS by visiting www.californiaacademy.org.

High Schools Earn Major Federal Grant

The Long Beach Unified School District has earned a federal grant that will bring at least \$2 million – and eventually as much as \$6.8 million – to help high school students improve academic performance.

Only 28 of 250 grant applications were awarded. In Long Beach, the grant will bring \$2 million for the first two years and a total of more than \$6.8 million over multiple years if schools meet academic targets along the way.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the nearly \$100 million in grants to support state and local efforts to reform high schools and improve the educational outcomes of students.

“These grants will help our local communities and states in working toward President Obama’s goal of once again having the highest college completion rate in the world by the end of the decade,” Secretary Duncan said. “To achieve this goal, high schools must ensure

more students graduate and are prepared for success in college and careers.”

LBUSD has spent several years creating Smaller Learning Communities at its large high schools to provide more personalized environments where students are better known by their teachers, administrators and counselors.

Four of LBUSD’s six large high schools (Cabrillo, Jordan, Poly and Wilson), which together serve more than 16,000 students, were identified as having a high need for Smaller Learning Community enhancements. These four high schools will benefit from the grant. Wilson will retain its Classical High School model, however, with a cadre of teachers sharing a cohort of students at each grade-level.

The Long Beach grant supports the district’s larger Academic and Career Success Initiative. It also supports the district’s move toward Linked Learning, which combines rigorous

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ACE Academy Pioneers ‘Linked Learning’

State and local officials gathered at Jordan High School in Long Beach recently to honor the school’s Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Academy for being among the first in California to achieve Linked Learning Certification. The certification effort, headed by educational nonprofit ConnectEd, assures that the high school is combining rigorous academics with real world experiences that prepare students not only for college, but also for high-paying, high-demand jobs.

Linked Learning pathways combine challenging academics, demanding technical courses, and work-based learning focused around an industry theme such as arts and media, engineering or biomedicine. These pathways connect learning with students’ interests and career

aspirations, leading to higher graduation rates, increased college enrollments, higher earning potential, and greater civic engagement.

“Today marks a major milestone for what has truly been a community effort in North Long Beach,” Christopher J. Steinhauser, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District, said at the event. “The ACE Academy shows what we can accomplish when we all work together for our youngsters. We celebrate this moment with Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, who was instrumental in launching the academy. We also share the credit with our partners in industry and the trades, our private funders such as the Irvine Foundation, our hardworking staff

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ACE STUDENTS — Roman Stearns, director of leadership development for ConnectEd, visits with students at the ACE Academy of Long Beach, located at Jordan High School. ACE students earn college credit while in high school, and they gain real-world work experience in architecture, construction and engineering. ACE is among the first programs of its kind.



Poly, Lakewood Go Pink to Fight Cancer

The student bodies and administration of Poly and Lakewood high schools will use their 7:30 p.m. Moore League football match this Friday, Oct. 8 at Veterans Stadium to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Student leaders from the two schools will circulate through the crowd in a competition to see which school can raise the most money.

Players from both teams will wear pink ribbon stickers on their helmets. Pink foam mini footballs will be thrown into the stands, and pink wavy balloons will be given out during the third quarter of the game.

Breast cancer survivors from each school's staff will be honored on the field at 6:45 p.m. Those in the stands who are cancer survivors will be asked to stand and be recognized.

Those unable to attend but wanting to donate can do so by contacting the schools' respective activities specialists: Worren Booth of Lakewood at 425-1281 or Terry Speir of Poly at 591-0581.

New Leaders in Middle, K-8 Office

Long Beach Unified School District administrators Peter Davis and Frank Gutierrez have been named acting directors of the Middle and K-8 Schools Office. The Board of Education recently approved the new assignments in light of the retirement of Gwen Mathews, who was assistant superintendent of Middle and K-8 Schools.

Mathews also had overseen Head Start and the Child Development Centers. Inquiries regarding those programs should now be referred to the Superintendent's Office at ext. 8242.

Names in the News

Wilson Classical High School Principal **Sandy Blazer** was named Educator of the Year by the Long Beach Press-Telegram as part of the newspaper's Amazing Women Awards.

Patrick Henry K-8 Academy teacher **Dansen Lipock** was surprised with \$1,000 in school supplies from OfficeMax as part of "A Day Made Better" that recognized teachers for extraordinary efforts. Winning teachers were nominated by their principals for demonstrating passion, dedication and innovation in the classroom.

Former LBUSD teacher, football coach and activities director **David Burcham** recently was named president of Loyola Marymount University.

Exit Exam Prep

Prep sessions for the California High School Exit Exam are available to students now through July 2011. The free sessions are offered by Academic Uprise, Inc. in partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District.

Find more information, including a list of dates and locations, by clicking on Academic Uprise (CAHSEE Prep) in the A-Z index at www.lbschools.net.

• Federal Grant Helps Personalize Learning

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academics with working world experiences to prepare students for multiple options after high school, including college and high-demand jobs. The newest grant aims to achieve four main goals:

- Through a comprehensive guidance and academic advising program for students and their parents, prepare all students to succeed in postsecondary education and careers, without remediation.
- Provide support services in reading/language arts and math skills through data analysis and tiered intervention, or customized levels of extra help for students, depending upon

their need.

- Enroll and support students in an integrated sequence of rigorous English, math and science courses that help students to succeed in college while remaining relevant to high-demand jobs.

- Increase opportunities for students to earn college credit through Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses and/or dual credit for high school and college.

Grantees also will focus on improving teaching and learning by providing teachers with more time to plan with one another how to best meet the needs of their students.

Learn more under "news" at www.ed.gov.

• ACE Combines Career, College Readiness

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and students, and our elected Board of Education, which has made programs like the ACE Academy a top priority as part of our districtwide Academic and Career Success Initiative."

The ACE Academy opened with 50 students in fall 2007 and now serves 270 students.

"I'm delighted that the ACE Academy is among the first in the state to receive this recognition," Mayor Foster said. "Only a few months ago, we celebrated the first graduating ACE Academy class. And now the Linked Learning Certification shows that the academy's hands-on learning has tremendous worth in our schools and in today's working world."

Joining Foster at the certification ceremony were Assemblymember Isadore Hall (D-Los Angeles), LBUSD Board of Education member Mary Stanton, ConnectEd officials, and Jordan High School students and staff. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell congratulated the school via video.

"Congratulations to the ACE Academy for being recognized here today for the Linked Learning Certification, and to the entire district for their embrace of this very important concept," O'Connell said. "It truly is transformational, and you're looking at the schools of the future, today."

The ACE Academy, modeled after a successful program at Kearny High School in San Diego, features internships and apprenticeships with employers while students concurrently enroll in Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach classes. Jordan High has shown significant gains under the program, including a 13-point gain this year on the state's Academic Performance Index.

To become a Linked Learning certified pathway, the school had to meet the vast majority of the certification criteria or indicators that the school has created the optimal environment for improving student achievement and engagement. ConnectEd, a statewide hub for the Linked Learning field, and its partners — the National Academy Foundation, the National Career Academy Coalition, and the Career Academy Support Network at the University of California, Berkeley — established and managed the certification process for Linked Learning pathways. In considering Jordan's ACE Academy for certification, reviewers observed:

- ACE Academy provides students with curriculum that uses real work-based concepts to make learning relevant.

- ACE Academy has a strong academic core (a-g college entrance coursework) that is clearly integrated with Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework.

- The multi-disciplinary integration was evident throughout classroom observations and validated during student interviews.

- The program of study includes clear evidence of interdisciplinary problem and project-based curriculum.

- ACE students are scheduled as a cohort to promote multi-disciplinary projects.

Reviewers found that the ACE Academy is strongly supported by district and site administration, and by a dedicated onsite academy coordinator. The academy also boasts a strong industry advisory committee and post-secondary connections that have the potential to provide all academy students with a clear map leading to career success, reviewers reported.

The Academy includes "a strong program design; an enthusiastic, collaborative academic and CTE staff; a personalized learning environment; engaged students; and innovative leverage of funds to ensure sound program implementation," reviewers stated.

Learn more at connectedcalifornia.org.

Free Flu Shots

The Long Beach Health Department will offer free flu shots from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17 at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st. Street, Long Beach.

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against three influenza viruses, including 2009 H1N1 swine flu.

Learn more at www.longbeach.gov/health.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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