



school bulletin

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

January 21, 2011

Governor's Budget Poses Challenges

In proposing a state budget this month, Gov. Jerry Brown expressed his desire to protect K-12 education from further cuts, but he acknowledged that such a goal may be impossible.

Gov. Brown said he will go to voters as soon as possible to seek an extension of tax increases to protect education funding. If voters reject such a proposal, K-12 education throughout California could suffer another multi-billion-dollar hit.

The Long Beach Unified School District cannot count on a successful statewide election and must plan for the worst, as evidenced by this week's proposed closure of Burroughs and Buffum elementary schools.

The school district remains in budget-cutting mode for the foreseeable future, even though it has already cut more than \$170 million over the past three years through hiring freezes, unpaid furlough days, layoffs and many other reductions.

School Board Sets Meeting on Budget

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has scheduled a special meeting to discuss the budget at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25 in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach.

The meeting will be for informational purposes, not for board action, regarding the budget crisis.

Book Selected for 'Long Beach Reads'

Long Beach Public Library Foundation's 10th Annual Long Beach Reads One Book campaign will feature *Listening Is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life*. The week-long event is April 1 to 10.

The book comes from National Public Radio's StoryCorps project, which set out recently to record an oral history of America with the voices of everyday people. The book is a collection of the most compelling excerpts from more than 10,000 interviews.

Since 2002, the Library Foundation has been encouraging a love of reading through its citywide celebration Long Beach Reads One Book. Each year, a book is selected for the community to read, and the week includes several events related to the book's theme. An itinerary for this year's event is coming soon.

Learn more at www.lbplfoundation.org.

LBUSD Launches North Long Beach Initiative

The Long Beach Unified School District has launched the North Long Beach Initiative, a six-month planning effort to guide public policy addressing the educational and social needs of students and their families.

LBUSD's Board of Education was joined by Mayor Bob Foster, representatives from the Long Beach Police Department, and other civic and community leaders during a recent launch ceremony at Jordan High School.

The initiative is tied to a \$105 million investment the school district is making in the North Long Beach community through a major renovation of Jordan High School, scheduled for completion in 2015. The school was built in 1935 and serves 2,800 students in grades 10 to 12. By law, Measure K funds may only be

used for local school construction and modernization, which protects the Jordan High renovation from the state budget cuts that LBUSD and other school districts continue to face.

As the single largest project funded by Measure K (the \$1.2 billion school bond measure approved by 71 percent of voters in 2008), Jordan's renovation will transform the campus into a model 21st Century learning environment.

"The new Jordan High School could become a centerpiece for revitalization of the larger North Long Beach area," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "Because students spend, on average, only 20 percent of their waking hours in the classroom, (Continued on next page)

Board May Close Burroughs, Buffum Schools

Burroughs and Buffum elementary schools may be closed after this school year due to declining enrollment and the state's massive cuts to public education. The Board of Education at its regular meeting this week began considering the closure of the two schools, and a formal vote on the matter could occur as early as Feb. 1.

As part of the Long Beach Unified School District's continued cost-cutting efforts, school district staff have been examining the possible closure of smaller school campuses to improve efficiency.

"By closing these smaller campuses, we would save valuable resources that would help to maintain our fiscal solvency and our high quality programs," LBUSD Superintendent

Christopher J. Steinhauser stated in a recent letter to Burroughs and Buffum parents.

Staff recommended the closure of the two schools in part because Burroughs and Buffum have relatively small numbers of students. Buffum has 295 students and is located at 2350 Ximeno Ave. in Long Beach. Burroughs has 291 students and is located at 1260 E. 33rd St. in Signal Hill.

In both cases, other nearby schools have the capacity to serve the displaced students.

Declining enrollment districtwide has exacerbated budget woes because schools receive most of their funding based on student attendance. The small numbers of students at Burroughs and Buffum have reduced the (Continued on next page)

MLK PARADE — Students from Poly High School were among many Long Beach Unified School District participants in the city's Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Parade and Celebration this year. Also participating were LBUSD's school board, superintendent and several school principals who served as grand marshalls. See more photos at lbschools.net.





UNITED — School board members joined Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster and other civic leaders, along with school staff, parents and students at Jordan High School for the launch of the North Long Beach Initiative.

• North Long Beach Initiative Under Way

(Continued from first page)
it's imperative that their academic and social success is supported beyond school walls."

In the next six months, the school district, in collaboration with the School of Educational Studies at Claremont Graduate University, will conduct community surveys and a series of forums and focus groups to determine the greatest challenges and most-needed resources in North Long Beach.

"This is a great collaboration," Mayor Foster said at the launch event, where he pledged to support the effort. "We all know

we have a great school district, but there is always room for improvement. I think this investment will pay dividends for years to come."

The school district is seeking input from representatives from government, non-profits, business and professional entities, parents and school-based groups. A North Long Beach Initiative Community Advisory Committee has been formed.

Although students at Jordan High and its eleven feeder schools have made great strides in recent years, many of them lag behind students in other schools in the district on the state Academic Performance Index.

"This initiative represents the school district's desire to ensure educational success for all its students," Steinhauser said. "We believe that every child can succeed and that all children deserve the resources and support needed to do so."

Learn more at lbschools.net under North Long Beach Initiative.

North Long Beach Initiative Forums

(Online surveys will be available Feb. 3 to 28 at lbschools.net.)

Monday, Jan. 31

Powell K-8 School Cafeteria
150 Victoria St., Long Beach

Tuesday, Feb. 1

Grant Elementary School Auditorium
1225 E. 64th St., Long Beach

Wednesday, Feb. 2

Lindbergh Middle School Auditorium
1022 E. Market St., Long Beach

Thursday, Feb. 3

Dooley Elementary School Auditorium
5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach

• Burroughs, Buffum

(Continued from first page)
efficiency of those schools. LBUSD's enrollment has declined by about 14,000 students over the past decade.

If the school board approves the closures, school district staff will hold informational meetings for parents regarding student placement for the 2011-12 school year. At this week's board meeting, school district staff presented the board with proposed school boundary changes that would allow schools near Burroughs and Buffum to accommodate the displaced students. The proposed boundary changes are available at lbschools.net.

The closure of the two schools would save nearly \$1.3 million annually.

Burroughs and Buffum opened in 1950.

Commuter Alerts

The West County Connectors project will connect the carpool lanes on the I-405 with the carpool lanes on the SR-22 and I-605 freeways via elevated structures. The project includes a full closure of the northbound I-405/westbound SR-22/7th Street connector bridge for at least one year (the 7th Street Bridge).

Construction is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks.

Visit octa.net/westcounty to learn more and to sign up for updates and closure alerts.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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Fun Run to Combat Childhood Obesity

The pediatric residents from the University of California, Irvine in collaboration with Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach are hosting a Super Bowl Sunday Fun Run before the big game on Feb. 6.

"Before you plop yourself down on that couch this Superbowl Sunday, come on out to the beach," says the Miller website.

Rise and shine for the 8:30 a.m. run starting at the Belmont Olympic Pool Plaza in Belmont Shore, 4000 Olympic Plaza Drive.

The UCI residents aim to raise awareness about childhood obesity and promote a day of fitness for people of all ages.

The day includes a free 1K fun run and a 5K that costs \$25, with registration open until Friday, Feb. 4. The event also includes a health, nutrition and fitness expo. Children can obtain a "passport" and visit various booths to learn about healthy eating, staying active and measuring their body mass index (BMI).

Visit MillerChildrensHospitalLB.org/5k to register for the run.

Dates to Remember

February	National African-American History Month National Children's Dental Health Month Fall Semester Ends
1	National Freedom Day
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
2	Spring Semester Begins
2	Groundhog Day
2	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
3	Chinese New Year
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
7-11	National School Counseling Week
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
9	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Presidents' Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
14	Lincoln Day — Holiday
14	St. Valentine's Day
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
21	Presidents' Day — Holiday
21	Washington Day
22	George Washington's Birthday
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
23	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8

Summer Workers

Applications will be accepted beginning in February for a limited number of classified summer school jobs.

The applications will be available on the Personnel Commission webpage on Monday, Jan. 31. All applications and information sheets must be attached together and sent directly to Personnel Commission, Summer Applicant Desk, 999 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813. The deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 18.