



school bulletin

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

January 7, 2011

Gov. Appoints Cohn To State Board of Ed.

Gov. Jerry Brown appointed former Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Carl A. Cohn to the state Board of Education this week.

The appointment was one of several announced by the newly elected governor.

Cohn was superintendent in Long Beach from 1992 to 2002.

Honda Gives \$100K For Science at CAMS

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. donated \$100,000 to Cal State Dominguez Hills recently to support the university's Science Opportunity Program, which provides college-level science courses to students of the California Academy of Math and Science.

CSUDH established the program in 2009. Prior to implementation of the program, few of the university's science courses were available to students at CAMS, which is run by the Long Beach Unified School District at CSUDH.

CSUDH and CAMS have developed curriculum that allows students to take college-level science courses beginning in the summer of the students' sophomore year, and continuing in subsequent years.

The program proved popular the first year, with more than 100 students applying for 48 slots in the summer chemistry class.

CAMS students can enter college as sophomores having spent nothing on tuition.

LBUSD Shines in National Comparison

A recent report from The Broad Foundation shows Long Beach is one of a few large school districts nationwide that are outperforming their states.

The report says that Long Beach is among an even more select group of school systems that are:

- Better at serving African-American students;
- Better at serving Hispanic students;
- Better at serving low-income students.

The report, which is the first Broad Prize "data brief," says Long Beach is succeeding because:

- Teachers use a common, core pedagogy that outlines specific expectations and instructional requirements and encourages higher-

order thinking;

- Teachers receive regular objective feedback from classroom walk-throughs that are aligned to school and district goals;
- Student achievement goals drive recruitment, selection, hiring and placement of staff;
- The school district undergoes continuous improvement that is fueled by extensive student data analysis and comprehensive evaluation of progress;
- The school district keeps the community engaged and involved;
- Students have extensive school choice and individualized learning opportunities (about 40 percent of students attend an out-of-boundary school).

Visit lbschools.net for the full report.

New Governor Warns of Painful Budget

Gov. Jerry Brown during his inauguration this week again warned that the spending plan he is scheduled to unveil next week will include painful cuts.

"It is a tough budget for tough times," Brown said. "Choices have to be made and difficult decisions taken."

Brown also recently convened an Education Budget Summit where he explained that California's budget gap has now grown to more than \$28 billion. The state budget promises to be worse this year than it was last year, he said.

Absent permanent solutions, state deficits will persist for years, extending beyond 2015, Brown said. Already, California ranks among

the bottom of the nation in terms of K-12 per pupil expenditures, but with roughly 40 percent of the state budget allocated for education, schools are likely to face more cuts.

At the same education summit, State Treasurer Bill Lockyer said California's debt has increased significantly since 2003, and that the state's reliance on one-time solutions, including deficit borrowing, has weakened its credit rating. Lockyer cited several negative commentaries about California from rating agencies including Standard and Poor's, which described the state Legislature's inability to meet fiscal obligations. S&P noted California's "loss of legislative resolve to

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MUSIC TO THEIR EARS — Wilson Classical High School band members will benefit from a donation by Wilson alum Janet McKenzie, who is supporting the school's music program, including the establishment of a music room. McKenzie provided \$50,000, and she has pledged another \$50,000 this month, with a significant future endowment planned.

Marshall to Become Arts Academy in Fall

The Board of Education approved a plan this week to transform Marshall Middle School into the Marshall Academy of the Arts.

Admission to the academy for the 2011-12 school year will be available to all students within the school district, with first priority to be granted to students who reside within the present Marshall attendance area, as well as students attending Carver, Henry and Keller schools under School of Choice. Students at Marshall also will have priority acceptance into Millikan High School.

The "Marshall Plan" calls for additional GATE/Excel classes for gifted students and a specialization in the visual and performing arts. Drama, chorus, art and possibly dance will be added as electives.

Marshall students next year will attend seven classes as opposed to six, or they will attend school on a block schedule allowing up to three electives.

• Painful Budget

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maintain sufficient liquidity to fund both the obligations with prior claims on general fund cash (for education) and the state's debt service payment obligations."

Lockyer noted that another rating service, Fitch, says California's "institutional weaknesses, including inflexibility imposed by voter initiatives and a partisan policy-making environment, have repeatedly delayed action on addressing fiscal challenges, resulting in unsustainable budgetary solutions and exacerbating future-year budget making."

School Choice Fair

Thousands of students, parents and educators are expected to attend the Long Beach Unified School District's 15th Annual Education Celebration from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 22 at Cabrillo High School's main gymnasium.

This year's theme is the "Importance of Family." As part of the district's school choice initiative, the event is an opportunity for families to learn more about schools.

Parents of students entering kindergarten through eighth grade will find information on each elementary, K-8 and middle school under one roof. The school district's open enrollment period starts this month.

Free transportation is available from all LBUSD high schools. The departure schedule is: Lakewood, 8:30 a.m.; Jordan, 8:45 and 9:45 a.m.; Millikan, 8:25 a.m.; Wilson, 8:35 a.m.; and Poly at 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. For more information, call 997-8306.

ALBEM Breakfast

The annual Business Partnership Breakfast sponsored by the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees is scheduled for 6:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 25 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach.

The event includes recognition of schools' new and continuing business partners, a raffle to fund student scholarships, and a choice between the All American (scrambled eggs with cheese and chives, bacon, hash browns and fruit garnish) or French toast swirled with cinnamon and served with maple syrup, powdered sugar and fruit garnish.

The cost is \$18 per person. Reservations must be received by Friday, Feb. 11. Watch for the reservation form from ALBEM, or contact Elizabeth Anklam at 494-5101.

Names in the News

Seven more teachers from the Long Beach Unified School District have earned National Certification, the highest professional distinction in teaching. The teachers are **Maureen Aschoff**, Gompers/Tincher; **Alicia Carmona**, Music Office; **Lisa Hickman**, Poly; **Kristie McGinley**, Emerson; **Mary Beth Murray**, Prisk; **Maya Oliver**, Burbank; and **Laura Strand**, Music Office. The latest certifications bring the total number of nationally certified teachers here to 138.

POLY PROMO — A new video on Poly High School features several student testimonials. Produced by Time Warner and the LBUSD Magnet Office, the video also features Poly alum and former NFL great Willie McGinest. See the video at lbschools.net.



Poly Teams Up With Pros on New Video

Poly High School has teamed up with Time Warner and a former National Football League star on a new video promoting the school.

Poly High School alum and former NFL great Willie McGinest introduces the video, "It All Happens at Poly," which includes several interviews with school leaders, staff and students. The seven-minute video, available at lbschools.net, provides descriptions of various academic offerings at Poly, including details on the school's Smaller Learning Communities.

The video was funded by a federal grant supporting Poly's Pacific Rim Academy.

McGinest played on the three-time, Superbowl-winning New England Patriots. He notes that Poly has produced more NFL players than any high school in the nation and has sent even more students to Ivy League colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

"My career started right here at Long Beach

Poly High School," McGinest says. "With innovative academic programs, and dedicated teachers and coaches, Poly High School has prepared me for life both on and off the football field. Poly is one of the best schools in the nation."

More information on programs at Poly and all LBUSD high schools is available under High School Office in the A-Z index at lbschools.net. Click on "Choosing a School."

L.B. Symphony Hosts High School Students

The Long Beach Symphony Orchestra provided music students from Long Beach high schools free tickets to its annual Holiday Celebration recently at the Terrace Theater.

The orchestra works with the Long Beach Unified School District to provide curriculum-based music education opportunities throughout the year. Through its music education program — including professional ensembles in elementary and middle schools, and the widely acclaimed Miller Foundation Symphony Concerts for Young People — the symphony reaches more than 25,000 students each year.

Sponsors of the 350 tickets included Long Beach City Council Member Gary DeLong, BNSF Railway, Pacific Retail Partners, the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, SA Recycling, and the Long Beach Education Foundation.

"We deeply appreciated this generous donation of tickets," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "Throughout the year, our students enjoy the orchestra's educational programs. And the holiday spirit was alive and well, thanks to the symphony."

Gant Field Trip a Lesson in Giving

On a recent field trip to learn about nutrition at Albertson's supermarket, a class of Gant Elementary School first graders also learned about feeding others.

After examining food labels and sampling the produce, students purchased more than \$50 in canned goods for the needy. The students had raised the \$50 by doing chores at home. The field trip was featured on ABC 7 News.

LBPD Employees Donate to Schools

Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell and his colleagues recently presented students at Washington Middle School with a donation of books and playground balls as part of a pilot program for local schools in need of extra supplies.

Washington Middle School and its after school program needed books and balls, so police department employees and Lakewood High School staff and students donated over 65 balls and 200 books.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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