



school bulletin

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

May 27, 2011

State Budget Filled With Uncertainty

By Christopher J. Steinhauer
Superintendent of Schools

Like most people, I was pleased to hear that state revenues are finally beginning to pick up again, in part because our schools rely so heavily on state funding and have suffered millions of dollars in cuts over the past several years.

We learned about the revenue boost when Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his "May Revise," or the latest draft of the budget. The problem for our schools however, is that the draft state budget remains just that – a draft. We need a final budget approved by Gov. Brown and the Legislature before we can realistically plan for next school year. There's also no guarantee that rising revenues at the state level will translate into adequate and stable funding here.

The latest budget news from the state came just as we had issued nearly 800 final layoff notices to certificated employees, mostly teachers, here in the Long Beach Unified School District. In essence, we continue to implement our worst-case budget scenario.

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Middle, K-8 Schools Celebrating Gains

Six local middle and K-8 schools have earned awards from the Long Beach Unified School District for significant growth in academic achievement. The district's Office of Middle and K-8 Schools recognized each of the winners during a recent ceremony at Long Beach City College.

The Pyramid Awards, recognizing the cooperative efforts of parents, school staff, the principal and students, went to schools that demonstrated significant gains on state tests and other measurements.

Stephens, Powell, Muir, Avalon and Lindbergh schools earned awards for at least tripling the growth of their state-established Academic Performance Index target, and for showing at least 7 percent growth on federal Adequate Yearly Progress math and English measurements. Among the highest API gains were 39 points at Stephens and 35 points at Powell.

Stanford Middle School earned an award for schools that already have a high API of 850 to 950 (on a scale of 1,000) yet still grew by at least three points (and 3 percent on AYP English or math).

8 LBUSD High Schools Among Nation's Best

A list of the nation's top high schools released by the Washington Post includes eight schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

The rankings, similar to those that appear annually in Newsweek, include schools that surpass 93 percent of other public high schools nationwide in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep courses.

"We're thrilled that the Washington Post has recognized the high quality of our local high schools," said Christopher J. Steinhauer, superintendent of schools for the Long Beach Unified School District. "It's a great honor, especially coming from one of the world's leading media outlets, and it's a tribute to the

hard work going on in our schools."

The Post divides the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2010 by the number of graduating seniors. Only 7 percent of the approximately 27,000 U.S. public high schools qualified for the list.

The Washington Post sold Newsweek last summer and is now reporting its own rankings. Though the Post rankings vary slightly from the latest Newsweek numbers, both versions contain the same LBUSD schools. For the first time, North Long Beach's Jordan High School this month appeared on both the Newsweek and Washington Post lists.

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Hudson, Poly Win State Engineering Contest

The Long Beach Unified School District swept a recent statewide engineering contest, with Hudson K-8 School and Poly High School earning top honors.

LBUSD students walked away as state champions of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Engineering Design Competition held at UC Santa Barbara this month.

The Long Beach teams beat out 14,000 other students at preliminary and regional competitions held across California to triumph under the guidance of MESA advisor James Mills.

Both the middle and high school teams from LBUSD won first place by designing the best wind energy device.

The two Long Beach teams will represent California in the MESA National Engineering

Design Competition June 23 to 25 in Redmond, near Seattle.

The project teaches students to understand design principles such as torque, generating and storing wind energy and environmental impact. See photos at lbschools.net.

The middle school winners from Hudson are Christina Le, Michelica Balajadia, Kyrene Aganon and Rose Chelsea Lubang. The high school winners from Poly are Breanna Nery, Rae Jillian Rivera and Kimberly Ventura. Both schools are served by the MESA Center housed at the Cal State Long Beach College of Engineering.

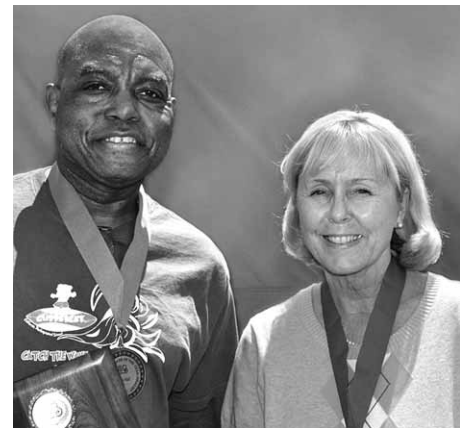
Learn more at mesa.ucop.edu.

Poly Students Shine At Solar Boat Race

Poly High School placed second overall and won a number of individual category awards at a Southern California solar-powered boat race this month. The group of 15 Poly students were pitted against 40 other teams from cities located within the Metropolitan Water District's service area at the MWD's ninth annual Solar Cup Boat Race Competition held at Lake Skinner in Temecula Valley.

Besides its overall second place win, the students earned first place in the region for the sprint race, first place in the region for the 90-minute endurance race, first place overall for written technical reports, and second place in the region for a water conservation public service announcement.

The competition involves a seven-month program that culminates in the races. Students design and build their solar-powered boat.



EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR—
Cubberley K-8 School plant manager Sam Hill and Garfield Elementary School intermediate office assistant Dianna Bisnar tied for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award.
Story on next page.

• State Budget

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We appreciate Gov. Brown's efforts to protect education, and he has made a valiant attempt to do so in his draft budget. However, his budget is predicated on several uncertainties, including whether the Legislature will fulfill his request to approve a temporary extension of some taxes until voters can decide whether the tax extensions should continue beyond his proposed stop-gap period. Even if the tax extension proposal goes to voters, approval is far from certain.

All of this leaves California school districts no better off than we were before the May revise, because we cannot plan our local budgets based upon wishful thinking.

Our hope as educators is that our lawmakers will not squander this opportunity to make substantive changes in our state budget so that public school funding is preserved and protected from these wild and disruptive boom-and-bust cycles of the economy. Meanwhile, after being forced to cut our budget for eight of the last nine years, we must remain conservative in our planning.

We're so grateful to all of our parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and others who in recent weeks have applied pressure to our state leaders, reminding them of public education's importance to our communities, our state and our nation. Please keep up these efforts. We need all the help that we can get.

Read a Q&A on the state's revised May budget at lbschools.net.

Autism Documentary

A free screening of the film, "A Mother's Courage: Talking Back to Autism," will be offered 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 in the Millikan High School Auditorium.

Narrated by Academy Award winner Kate Winslet, the documentary chronicles a mother's international odyssey in search of proper treatment and schooling for her son.

The keynote speaker is Areva Martin, a national expert on parental advocacy.

For more information, contact Sam Platis at GreatMindsCare@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

June	
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 7 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 8 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
5	World Environment Day
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Independence Days," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
12	Race Unity Day
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
12-16	National History Day Contest
14	Flag Day
16	Last Day of School—Students
17	Last Day of School—Teachers
19	Fathers Day
21	First Day of Summer
27	Helen Keller's Birthday

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Dave Shawver	June 10	Syndy Kaitanjan (714) 334-9706
Lucy Bruno	June 24	Kellie Hauser KHauser@lbschools.net

Employees of Year at Cubberley, Garfield

Cubberley K-8 School plant manager Sam Hill and Garfield Elementary School intermediate office assistant Dianna Bisnar tied for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award announced at a ceremony last week in honor of Classified Employee Week.

Hill, a 37-year Long Beach Unified School District employee, has coached all-city champs in multiple sports at the middle school level, in addition to his plant supervisor duties. His numerous nominations for this year's award included a co-signed submission from Principal Terri Jarels and former Cubberley Principal Michael Navia.

"He approaches every task, from the daily to the special event, with energy, passion and humor," the principals wrote. "Through it all, he remains calm, gracious and supportive. He is everything to Cubberley, and he is willing to do anything you could need or want, because he loves the school, and everyone loves him."

At Garfield, several colleagues nominated 17-year LBUSD employee Bisnar, including Principal Donna McKeehan, who described the office assistant as "the heart and soul of the Garfield office."

On a daily basis, Bisnar "remains calm, composed and professional when the office around her may be in chaos. She strives for excellence in everything she does. Her warm personality, caring heart and compassionate manner toward everyone are traits that make her stand out."

Both winners said they were touched.

"I'm especially grateful to my Cubberley family," said Hill, whose formal title is plant manager II. "Elsewhere, people often are judged by their title, but at Cubberley everyone has always given me nothing but respect, and I appreciate that very much."

"I have to thank my Garfield family, who I dearly love," said Bisnar, whose formal title is intermediate office assistant—schools. "I'm so grateful and honored, and this is an experience that I'll always remember."

Bisnar and Hill will be recognized at the June 7 Board of Education meeting.

Summer Job Letters

Classified summer school assignment notices may go out to applicants after the initially publicized date of June 3. All applicants should receive notice no later than June 10.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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• Best High Schools

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As with the Newsweek list, the report by the Post includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local schools' rankings on the Washington Post report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 821 – Wilson (48% subs. lunch)
- 1,048 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (45% subs. lunch)
- 1,067 – Poly (63% subs. lunch)
- 1,347 – Lakewood (46% subs. lunch)
- 1,575 – Renaissance (59% subs. lunch)
- 1,601 – Millikan (56% subs. lunch)
- 1,732 – Avalon (63% subs. lunch)
- 1,855 – Jordan (98% subs. lunch)

Learn more at washingtonpost.com.

Names in the News

Hill Classical Middle School teacher librarian **Kathy Alexander** was honored at a recent Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education meeting for earning the 2011 Teacher Librarian of the Year award from the Long Beach School Librarian's Association. Presenting the award to Alexander was last year's honoree, **Crystal Miranda**.

Hamilton Middle School students created robots that placed 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 25th among 34 individual competitors in a regional competition at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science. In team competition, all five Hamilton robots reached the semi-final matches. Two of Hamilton's robots, led by drivers **Manuel Macias** and **Oscar Becerra** advanced to the finals. Hamilton's other three team robots led by **Bryan Camacho**, **Ahmad Muhammad** and **Erick Im** placed 3rd overall. Hamilton placed second overall. All five Team Hamilton robots finished in the top 9 of 34 teams for the day. The students are led by instructor **Ethan George**.

Cara Hale-Hanes, a science teacher at Poly High School, was named regional winner of the National Science Teachers Association Shell Science Lab Challenge for teachers who find innovative ways to deliver science lab experiences with limited resources. Hale-Hanes is one of 17 regional winners. Ultimately one national winner will receive a science lab makeover valued at \$20,000.

Longfellow Elementary School third grader **Amanda Angeles** earned third place nationally in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's drawing contest for Better Speech and Hearing Month. She competed against 800 contestants. Teacher **Douglas Edwards** proudly displays Amanda's winning drawing in his classroom.

BTSA Seeks Mentors

The Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Office seeks general education multiple subject and single subject LBUSD teachers interested in being induction mentors for credential candidates in 2011-12.

An informational meeting about the program is scheduled for 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 31 at the Teacher Resource Center, ABC room. No registration is necessary.

Find BTSA information at lbschools.net under Beginning Teacher Support.