



school bulletin

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

May 18, 2012

Three High Schools Make *U.S. News* List

The newest ranking of America's best high schools by *U.S. News and World Report* includes three schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. Among the three is a gold medal winner, the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and two silver medal winners.



CAMS and Polytechnic High School made repeat appearances on the list. Making the list for the first time was Renaissance High School for the Arts.

The three high schools earned high rankings among 21,776 public high schools throughout the United States:

CAMS—State ranking of 18; national ranking of 111; gold medal
 Renaissance—State ranking of 202;

national ranking of 1,038; silver medal
 Poly—State ranking of 278; national ranking of 1,326; silver medal
 CAMS also made the *U.S. News* list of best high schools for math and science, ranking 76th out of the nation's top 600 high schools.

To determine the rankings, schools were first analyzed on how well their students performed on state assessments, taking into account the test scores of disadvantaged students. High schools that made it through this analysis were then eligible to be ranked nationally in terms of college readiness. *U.S. News* determines the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work by analyzing student success in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, both of which include college-level courses.

U.S. News awarded more than 4,800 gold, silver and bronze medals to the top schools.

CAMS, Poly, Renaissance and other LBUSD high schools have appeared repeatedly on other lists of America's top schools, including those published by *Newsweek* and the *Washington Post*.

Final Layoff Notices OK'd for 245 More

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has approved final layoff notices for 245 more certificated employees, mostly teachers.

After cutting more than 1,000 positions and \$330 million since 2008, LBUSD faces further funding losses due to the state's ongoing budget crisis.

The certificated job cuts include 190 special (or temporary) contract teachers, as well as teaching staff at the school district's Child Development Centers and Head Start programs that provide pre-K and other services. The remainder of the personnel also were teachers, with the exception of nine counselors.

The full text of the school board's layoff resolution, including a listing of the laid off personnel, is available at lbschools.net under Budget Update (see the May 17 heading).

State Deficit Grows

Gov. Jerry Brown's revised budget plan this week showed that California's deficit has grown to \$16 billion, almost double what he projected in January.

The governor's proposed budget, in a best-case scenario, would provide local schools with flat funding. That means any increase would be minimal, perhaps as little as \$10 per student, which barely begins to cover cost increases. That best-case scenario also assumes that the governor's proposed November tax initiative will pass. If it doesn't, schools will see much deeper cuts amounting to hundreds of dollars per student. That would translate into a much shorter school year and
 (Continued on next page)

Statewide Business Group Lauds 15 Schools

Fifteen schools in the Long Beach Unified School District were named recently to the California Business Education Excellence Honor Roll for academic excellence and reducing achievement gaps among student populations.

The Honor Roll was broken into three parts, the first being "Star Schools," or those with significant populations of disadvantaged students who have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency. Making this list were Bryant, Emerson, Lafayette, Longfellow and Madison schools, along with the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

The second tier of recognition is "Scholar Schools," or those that are showing significant levels of academic achievement without a significant population of disadvantaged students. That list includes LBUSD's Carver, Fremont, Gant, Kettering, Lowell, Naples, Newcomb, Prisk and Twain schools.

For the first time, the business group recognized a subset of the Honor Roll that has both high percentages of low-income students and high levels of math and science achievement. Among these 100 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Honor Roll schools were Longfellow, Madison and CAMS.

"These schools are the bright spots of excellence in efforts to raise student academic achievement and close persistent achievement gaps," said Jim Lanich, president of CBEE. "By highlighting them, recognizing their achievement and giving them a voice, we hope other schools can learn from them and replicate

their proven practices throughout the state."

The Honor Roll includes 1,614 public elementary, middle and high schools recognized by the California business community for demonstrating consistently high levels of academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

For high schools, the CBEE Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.



LEADERS IN TRAINING—Female Leadership Academy Coordinator Sunday Abbot, teacher Kelly Rash, students from the academy, and Small Learning Communities Coordinator Alissa Gamboa — all from Jordan High School — were among dozens of Female Leadership Academy students and staff from local high schools who participated in the annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women in Los Angeles last weekend.

• State Deficit

(Continued from first page)
other painful reductions in service.

While the governor's budget attempts to protect public education, he emphasized that the state's ongoing fiscal crisis cannot be solved through cuts alone. Schools need the additional new revenues that the November initiative would provide.

View budget updates at lbschools.net under Budget Update.

3 Finalists Vie for Employee of Year

Twenty-nine nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award have been narrowed down to three finalists. The top winner will be announced at noon during the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Classified Employee of the Year Recognition this Friday, May 18 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

Parking is available on site. Lunch will include tacos, beans, rice and salsa, along with games, prizes and entertainment. The annual event is made possible by donations from private sponsors, organizations and school district managers and administrators.

This year's finalists are John Bosley, campus security officer at Lindsey; Jason Church, plant supervisor at Wilson; and Gail Rainwater, executive secretary at Human Resource Services.

Other nominees were Linda Alzugaray, Brad Angell, Angela Arellano, Joanne Barham, Deena Blair, Cynthia Brashier, Cindy Carroll, Roberto Castillo, Sandra Combs, Dawn Couch, Ora Davis, Sofia Echano, Dena Eliot, Felicia French, Carol M. Garcia, Oscar Herrera, DeWayne Hundley, Thomas L. Jackson, Jacy Jenkins, Judith Kaestner, Mayra Marcelo, Evelina Mitchell, Alejandra Robles, Antoinette Rouch and Jacqueline Scarborough. One nominee declined to be named.

Finalists and the winner also will be honored at an upcoming school board meeting.

Road Work Ahead

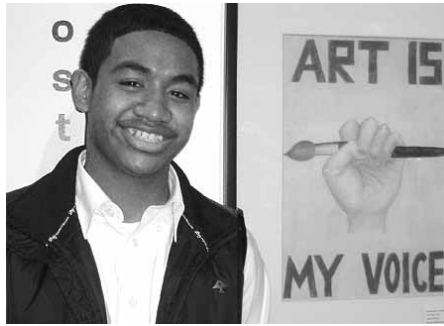
The West County Connectors project, which is connecting the carpool lanes on the I-405 with the carpool lanes on the SR-22 and I-605 freeways via elevated structures, will result in upcoming road closures.

The southbound I-605/northbound I-405 connector will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday, May 18 until 5 a.m. Monday, May 21.

For more information on closures and recommended detours, visit octa.net/westcounty.

Dates to Remember

June	
5	World Environment Day
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Independence Day(s)," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
7	
10	Race Unity Day
10-14	National History Day Contest
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
14	Flag Day
14	Spring Semester Ends
14	Last Day for Students—Traditional
15	Last Day for Teachers—Traditional
17	Fathers Day
20	First Day of Summer
27	Helen Keller's Birthday



FIRST PRIZE—Hoover Middle School student Leone Faiivae-Naufahu won first place for his "Art is My Voice" piece, displayed recently at the Museum of Latin American Art.

Hoover Student Wins First in Art Contest

Hoover Middle School's Leone Faiivae-Naufahu won first place in the 2012 Museum of Latin American Art Poster Contest. His entry addressing the question, "How does art improve our quality of life?" included a visual image and original slogan of "Art is My Voice." He won the \$250 prize.

An entry by classmate Matthew Bustamante, "Art, We are Unique," won honorable mention. Each year, MoLAA showcases the burgeoning talent of artists from Los Angeles and Orange County middle and high schools, providing the opportunity to compete for cash prizes. Their work was displayed at the museum during the recent award ceremony.

Hoover art teacher Christine Yu continues her tradition of success with the MoLAA contest. Her student, Christine Van, won first place in the middle school competition in 2010 and 2011, and again in 2012 as a Poly High School freshman.

Digital Art Exhibit

A Long Beach Museum of Art exhibit on arts in the 21st Century includes digital artwork from high school students in the Long Beach Unified School District.

View the exhibit in the Toyota Gallery through June 3. The museum is located at 2300 E. Ocean Blvd. Admission is free on Fridays.

Learn more at lbma.org.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Arts Council Honors LBUSD, Renaissance

The Arts Council for Long Beach recently honored the Long Beach Unified School District with the James H. Ackerman Arts Philanthropy Award for supporting the arts.

LBUSD accepted the award at the 2012 State of the Arts and Distinguished Arts Awards Celebration.

The Arts Council also honored Mark Zahn, recently retired principal of Renaissance High School for the Arts, with its Distinguished Arts Leader Award.

Despite unprecedented budget cuts, schools here still offer a comprehensive, sequential program of study in the arts, including dance, drama, music and visual arts. More than 110 arts courses in grades K-12 are offered.

Beach High School Unveils New Mural

Beach High School will unveil the first mural in an art project designed to teach at-risk youth about art as a career path. The ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday, May 25.

Beach High School is located on the School for Adults Campus at 3701 E. Willow St. The alternative school opened in September and helps youth who are credit deficient in grades 9 through 12.

Lead artist for the program is Jose Loza, a graduate of the City of Long Beach Mural Program. The public is invited to attend.

The city's GRIP program (Gang Resistance, Intervention and Prevention), sponsored the mural project. The Cultural Alliance of Long Beach provided the artist. This is the first mural of three planned for painting on the Beach High campus.

For information, or to RSVP, call 595-8893, ext. 292.

Memories of Keller

Keller Elementary School, slated to close at the end of the school year as part of a consolidation plan, will celebrate 58 years of memories during a 5 to 8 p.m. picnic on Friday, June 1 on the playground.

Bring chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy live entertainment, food and fun for grownups and kids.

The school is collecting photos from the past 58 years to create a memory lane in the entry hall. Bring photos to the school office or mail them to Keller Elementary, 7020 E. Brittain St., Long Beach, 90808.

Contact Laura Bean at 421-8851 for more information.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Barbara Powell	June 8	Stacie Alexander ext. 8636 Angela Rivers ext. 8644
Douglas Stewart	June 23	Elyssa Taylor-Stewart etaylor@lbschools.net