



# school bulletin

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

May 4, 2012

## Poly Activities Office Among Best in State

Polytechnic High School recently accepted top state honors for its activities program from the California Association of Student Leaders. The school was one of only 30 out of 800 high schools to win.

Unbeknownst to Poly Activities Director Terry Speir, the activities directors at other Long Beach Unified School District schools nominated Poly to receive this honor. They sleuthed for many months putting the necessary paperwork together for submission. When Speir received the letter of congratulations, she was a bit confused, as she had not submitted her own school for the distinction.

Poly student leaders accepted the award at the CASL State Conference on April 2 in Costa Mesa, with Poly expressing appreciation to the other high schools for recognizing their activities program.

## Tucker Lauded for Teaching Tolerance

The Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program has named the Tucker Adult Career Transition Program as a Mix It Up Model School for its exemplary efforts to nurture respect and understanding among students.

Tucker Transition is a post-high-school program for students ages 18 to 22 who have special needs. The school is one of 77 nationwide receiving the honor.

(Continued on next page)

## Longfellow Wins National Green Ribbon

The Obama Administration recently named Longfellow Elementary School among 78 schools to receive first-ever national Green Ribbon awards for reducing environmental impact, promoting health and ensuring high-quality environmental and outdoor education.

"We're all so excited and honored," said Longfellow Principal Laurie Murrin.

Through Longfellow's lunchtime and classroom recycling programs and other efforts, the school has diverted more than 100,000 pounds of trash from landfills over the past two years. The daily recycling of food wrappers, juice pouches and other items has become second nature at Longfellow, where students diligently separate their trash into recycling bins.

"It's become part of our campus culture," Murrin said.

In addition to recycling, Longfellow Green Team volunteers deliver unused cold foods and milk to Food Finders, a local food bank distrib-

utor, on a daily basis. Students participate in a Walk to School Wednesday program. Volunteers hold a monthly Uniform Swap, and the school has a new Junior Green Team of fourth and fifth graders.

Like other schools in the Long Beach Unified School District, Longfellow also is Energy Star certified for efficiency, and it participates in the district's SHAPE California nutrition education program. Longfellow has an expanded outdoor physical education program, courtyard garden and outdoor science lab, fruit trees, vegetable beds and composting area.

"Environmental and outdoor education play a central role in providing children with a well-rounded education, helping prepare them for the jobs of the future," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in announcing the award. "U.S. Department of Education

(Continued on next page)

## Williams Earns National Literacy Honor

Special Projects Director Robert Williams has earned the National Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Award, recognizing his exemplary work with struggling readers in the Long Beach Unified School District.

"I'm honored and grateful that our school district's literacy efforts are being recognized on a national stage," Williams said. "It's a team effort, so I share this award with many colleagues who work hard to provide students with the early support they need to succeed."

Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention of one-to-one teaching for the lowest

achieving first graders. Students receive 30-minute lessons each school day for 12 to 20 weeks from a specially trained teacher.

Nearly two million students nationwide have received Reading Recovery lessons and tens of thousands of teachers have been trained.

The Reading Recovery Council of North America, Inc. is a not-for-profit association of Reading Recovery professionals, advocates and partners. The council provides a network of opportunities for leadership and professional development. It is an advocate for Reading Recovery throughout North America.

"Bob has been steadfast in his commitment to the high standards of Reading Recovery," said colleague Kathleen Brown, a program specialist and Reading Recovery teacher leader who nominated Williams for the honor. "Under his direction and leadership, the role of the Reading Recovery teacher has been expanded to impact students and teaching in the primary grades."

Despite limited resources, intensive Reading Recovery intervention has been fully implemented at selected high-need schools, with daily literacy coaching in the primary grades and professional development sessions centered on early literacy teaching and learning.

Williams will accept his award at a June 20-23 Reading Recovery institute in North Bethesda, Maryland.

Learn more at [readingrecovery.org](http://readingrecovery.org).



**Williams**



**NATIONAL CHAMPS**—The Cabrillo High School Dance Team recently earned a national title in hip hop and six first-place wins in Las Vegas. **Story on next page.**

## • Tucker

(Continued from first page)

"We are delighted to recognize these schools," said Teaching Tolerance Director Maureen Costello. "Mix It Up Model Schools have found innovative ways to create a school environment where respect and inclusiveness are core values. They serve as examples for other schools hoping to instill these values in their students, faculty and staff."

Mix It Up Day provides students nationwide an opportunity to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. Studies have shown that interactions across group lines can help reduce prejudice. Last year, 5,500 schools took part in the event.

"It is really exciting to receive an award from the Southern Poverty Law Center. They work diligently to eradicate discrimination of all kinds. I am proud to be a part of their efforts," said Julie Denmion, a teacher with the Tucker program.

At Tucker's Mix It Up Day, student table leaders facilitated dialogue. The focus of the lunch was tolerance, peace and acceptance of others.

"It was a fantastic day," Denmion said. "More than 100 students, staff and community liaisons attended. Before and after the event, we conducted lessons focusing on conflict resolution, advocacy and tolerance."

Mix It Up Model Schools meet several criteria, including the hosting of a Mix it Up at Lunch Day. They include different members of the school's community – cafeteria staff, aides, administrators, teachers and students – in organizing the event. They followed up with at least two additional Mix It Up-related programs or events on campus.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Ala., is a nonprofit civil rights organization that combats bigotry and discrimination through litigation, education and advocacy.

Learn more at [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org).

## Cabrillo Dance Team Takes National Title

Fresh off of their state championship win in March, the Cabrillo Dance Team traveled to Las Vegas recently to win the national title in hip hop, six first place trophies, two second place trophies, two third place trophies and the Most Spirited Award.

Cabrillo's dance director is Keisha Clark-Booth.

## Be a Mentor Teacher

The Long Beach Unified School District Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment program's Alternative Induction Pathway seeks mentors for the 2012-13 school year.

Mentors are needed in elementary and secondary single-subject settings. To learn more, access the application at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). Find Beginning Teacher Support in the A-Z index, then go to Alternative Induction Pathway (AIP). An informational meeting is scheduled for 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 30 at the Teacher Resource Center, Room D. Teachers interested in attending the meeting should contact the BTSA Office at ext. 2901.

## Leadership Academy Fundraiser Saturday

The new Female Leadership Academy of the Long Beach Unified School District will hold a fundraising event to support its upcoming Revlon Run/Walk community service project. The high school students' fundraiser, which will feature free women's health information, music, live performances, food and children's activities is set for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 5 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

The academy is a leadership development program designed to empower young women and increase their graduation and college enrollment rates. FLA provides academic rigor, real world experiences and community engagement.

Members of the student academy plan to participate in the May 12 Annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women. The registration fees for the run are \$35 for each of the approximately 80 girls participating. The May 5 event will raise funds to cover the May 12 registration fees. For more information, contact Crystal Howard-Johnson at 997-8115.

## Employee of Year Event on May 18

The annual Classified Employee of the Year recognition event is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 18 at the Teacher Resource Center. Award finalists and the top award winner will be recognized at the event. The Employee of the Year will be announced at noon.

Parking is available on site. Lunch will include tacos, beans, rice and salsa, along with games, prizes and entertainment.

The event is made possible by donations from private sponsors, organizations and school district managers and administrators.

## Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Elaine Schnyder	June 1	Becky Robbins ext. 7964
Ray Boeving	June 14	Julia Gustafson ext. 5278
Jeffrey L. Cahn	June 1	Marilee Elam melam@lbschools.net

### 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](http://www.lbschools.net)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President  
JON MEYER, Vice President  
DIANA CRAIGHEAD, Member  
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member  
MARY STANTON, Member

## • Longfellow

(Continued from first page)

Green Ribbon Schools demonstrate compelling examples of the ways schools can help children build real-world skill sets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments."

Longfellow was among four California schools to win the top award from the U.S. Department of Education.

## Budget Update

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved budget items related to custodial services and Head Start at this week's regular meeting.

A reorganization of custodial services will save an estimated \$74,800 for 2012-13.

The school board OK'd an additional expenditure of \$225,000 to keep the Head Start program running for 2012-13, though the school district does not plan to run the program for the subsequent (2013-14) year. This item is addressed under the latest Bargaining Update at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

The items approved this week were part of an ongoing series of budget reductions and revisions. View this week's approved budget agenda items at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Budget Update.

## Hamilton Excels at MESA Math Contest

Two Hamilton Middle School students earned high honors in the recent Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Regionals at Cal State Long Beach.

Sixth grader Jose Romero earned a gold medal for placing first overall in his grade level's math competition.

Seventh grader Xitlally Alcocer earned a silver medal after placing second in her grade level's math competition.

"We are very proud of these two students for practicing their math daily to prepare for this very difficult competition," Principal David Downing said.

The students competed against top students representing MESA centers from USC, UCLA, UC Irvine and Cal State L.A.

MESA serves more than 20,000 California pre-college, community college and university students.

## Names in the News

Teacher librarian **Ameelia Ghareeb** recently earned a Hero Award from the nonprofit Community Action Team led by community activist Justin Rudd. Ghareeb was recognized for providing exemplary service through school libraries at Marshall Academy of the Arts and at Jefferson Leadership Academies. Her prize included \$1,000, which she used to purchase new books for Jefferson's library.

Winners of Port of Long Beach scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 are **Arren Bustamante**, **CA MIS**; **Leang-Kheng Ouk**, Jordan; **Tara Alise Marshall**, Millikan; **Yesica Garcia** and **Rouzbah Rahai**, Poly; and **Yonatan Berihun**, **Manuela Colonia** and **James Draper**, Wilson.