



school bulletin

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

September 21, 2012

Students Succeed, Just As Planned

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations on another smooth start to the school year. The first weeks of school can be challenging, but your work is making a huge difference as we strive to uphold our vital mission of “supporting the intellectual success of every student, every day,” and to achieve our vision of “every student becoming a responsible productive citizen in a diverse and competitive world.”

More than slogans, these ideals are engrained in a thoughtful, detailed Strategic Plan that we developed with broad input from employees and the community. Now our school-board-approved 2011-16 Strategic Plan is being brought to life by our dedicated employees. Consider some examples:



Steinhauser

Strategic Plan Objectives 1.4 and 1.3

call for increasing eighth grade algebra participation and proficiency. The latest numbers show eighth grade algebra proficiency – key to college readiness – jumped by 5 percent to 69 percent in LBUSD last year. That’s 20 percentage points above students statewide.

(Continued on next page)

State Supt. Visits Marshall, Praises LBUSD

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson visited Marshall Academy for the Arts this week to share the state’s new “Greatness by Design” report on educator excellence – a report that spotlights the Long Beach Unified School District’s methods of evaluating teachers and administrators.



Torlakson

In the report, a state task force formed by Torlakson calls for sweeping improvements in the way California educators are recruited, trained, mentored and evaluated.

“This is the most comprehensive look our state has taken at California’s most important profession – teaching – in a generation,” said Torlakson, who created the 48-member Task Force on Educator Excellence in January in partnership with the state Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Torlakson appointed LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser as co-chair of the task force along with Stanford University researcher Linda Darling-Hammond, who also serves as vice-chair of the CTC.

Torlakson commended LBUSD on the quality of its schools.

“I’ve been to a number of schools here, and you have an outstanding reputation academically and athletically, and great community sup-

port,” Torlakson said during a roundtable discussion with Steinhauser, Marshall Principal Michael Navia and Marshall teachers Cynthia Trecker, Ron Harmon and Susan Hubbs. Also participating were Los Angeles Unified School District teacher Martha Infante, CTC Chair Charles Gahagan, and David Rattrey, who is senior vice president of education and workforce development for the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

“We’re looking at the pioneering work – the stellar work – that’s going on here in Long Beach, particularly regarding the evaluation of teachers. Truly what you’re doing here exemplifies the best of practices,” Torlakson said.

The 90-page Greatness by Design report includes a section about LBUSD’s teacher evaluation methods, describing practices that have raised student achievement while helping to retain effective teachers.

“In award-winning Long Beach, California, a predominantly minority district widely recognized for achievement gains, teachers are evaluated through observations on their performance in relation to the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. In addition, teachers and administrators together set goals for student progress and improvements in practice at the school level, as teams within departments or grade levels and as individuals,” the report states. “Progress toward these goals is taken into account in both self-evaluations and supervisory evaluations.

“The evaluatee proposes how achievement of his or her objectives can be assessed, using evidence such as: teacher observation; anecdotal and cumulative records; success and progress on a continuum of learning or course

(Continued on next page)

CAMS Earns \$100K Transportation Grant

The experts who prevent the next Carmageddon, or the geniuses who plan the first manned trip to Mars, may come from the student population at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science. And that manned trip to the Red Planet could very well include women.

The high school on the campus of Cal State Dominguez Hills just earned a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Federal Highway Administration to help prepare students, particularly women and minorities, for high-tech careers in transportation.

CAMS will use the grant to integrate transportation, engineering, science and technology knowledge and skills into the curriculum at all four grade levels, introducing students to transportation careers and teaching them to solve complex, transportation-related problems.

Grant activities will include a one-week summer institute for teachers, teacher job-shadowing of transportation professionals, and coordinated units on transportation at each grade level. These efforts will culminate in capstone, or final, interdisciplinary projects that will integrate transportation issues into

broader contexts.

Tenth graders, for instance will plan a Mars society. They will design a rocket to transport humans and cargo to Mars, plan structures and systems to provide for the inhabitants’ biological needs, create both a physical and computer-generated model of their structure and system, design and build models of mining equipment and Mars rovers, use math to model population growth and predict resource requirements, determine their method of government and economy, and imagine how communication will differ in Mars’ harsh and isolated environment.

Ninth graders will have a more down-to-earth task: improving your morning commute. They will examine the restoration and improvement of urban infrastructure through research, planning and ultimately the development of test product materials, which includes testing for strength, aesthetics, safety and durability, incorporating elements of civil engineering, and researching improvements in state and local transportation systems.

Learn more about CAMS by visiting lbschools.net/cams.



LONG BEACH SETS EXAMPLE — A state report spotlights the Long Beach Unified School District’s methods of supporting outstanding teaching. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson discussed the report at Marshall Academy for the Arts.

• Supt. Steinhauser

(Continued from first page)

Increased algebra proficiency rates have occurred here even as the school district boosted participation in eighth grade algebra from 2,573 students in 2009 to 3,610 last year. We have a thousand more eighth graders taking algebra than just two years ago, and yet our proficiency rate continues to climb steadily.

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan states that all students will graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary and career options.

I'm pleased to report that the latest California High School Exit Exam data show an upward trend here. For the Class of 2012, pass rates were 94.3 percent in LBUSD, up from 93 percent for the Class of 2011.

Districtwide, pass rates for all ethnicities in LBUSD are now at 93 percent or above. In addition, recently released data on Advanced Placement college preparatory course enrollment showed that 5,062 students took one or more AP courses in LBUSD last year, nearly double the number in 2003.

Objective 3.2 calls for reducing bullying at schools. Our school board adopted a strict new policy on bullying, which will be complemented by related curriculum this year. This fits into the overarching **Goal 3**, which states that "all departments and sites will provide a safe and secure environment for staff and students." Our brand new Nelson Academy that opened in Signal Hill this month is another prime example of our commitment to safe, secure schools.

Objective 4.1 calls for increasing knowledge of our Strategic Plan, which we are doing through communications like the one you're reading now, and through a newly produced Strategic Plan poster and various other avenues.

Your ability to remain focused on our vital work is all the more impressive given the unprecedented challenges we face. I am now in my 31st year as an educator, and I have never seen an assault on public education like the one being waged through billions of dollars of ongoing cuts to schools. We desperately need the resources that would be generated by voter-approved taxes in November. Yet in the meantime, you continue to achieve great results for our students and their families. They deeply appreciate all that you do, and so do I.

Bowling League

The Long Beach School Employees Bowling League usually meets 4 p.m. Wednesdays at Cal Bowl, 2400 Carson St, Lakewood, with the league season starting the second week in October and ending in May. The league is gauging the level of player interest before setting up its first organizational meeting for next month.

Contact Carol Eggers at (949) 951-3822.

In Memoriam

Christopher Velasco
office machines technician
Aug. 29, 2012

Get Salary Credit

After the first year of employment, upon receipt of official sealed transcripts on or before Nov. 1, salary schedule placement adjustment will be granted for completed units and/or conferred degrees retroactive to the beginning of the first duty day of that contract year, for coursework and degrees earned prior to Sept. 15.

Upon receipt of official transcripts after Nov. 1, or for coursework and/or degrees completed after Sept. 15, or for newly hired employees, salary schedule placement adjustments will be granted for completed units and/or conferred degrees effective the pay period following receipt of the official sealed transcripts.

For more information about salary credit, see Appendix B of the TALB contract, or email questions to Human Resource Services at hrshelp@lbschools.net.

Dates to Remember

October	
	Character Education Month
	Crime Prevention Month
2	Back to School Night — Middle Schools
2	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "The Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History is Written," Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8
3	Back to School Night — High Schools
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
7-13	Fire Prevention Week
7-13	National Metric Week
8	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
9	Anniversary of Benjamin Bannecker's Death
9	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
15-19	National School Lunch Week
16	National Bosses' Day
16	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
23-31	Red Ribbon Week
23	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
24	United Nations Day
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
27	Make a Difference Day
30	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
31	Halloween
31	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

• Teacher Evaluation

(Continued from first page)

of study; teacher, department or school-made tests for pre-testing and post-testing; curriculum-related tests; use of audio-visual documentation if desired and available; student self-evaluations; discussion with students and parents; records of students' past learning performances; files of students' work collected to show growth; and other sources.

"The Long Beach district creates explicit and ongoing opportunities for schools, departments and grade level teams to review student work and test score data of various kinds, to evaluate progress within and across classrooms, to discuss curriculum and teaching strategies, to problem-solve regarding the needs of individuals and groups of students and to plan for improvements," the report adds.

The task force that produced the report included teachers, parents, principals, superintendents, and business and community leaders, as well as leading academics.

"The most successful educator evaluation systems are those that rely upon research-based best practices to help teachers and administrators improve their craft," LBUSD Superintendent Steinhauser said. "Collaboration is key to developing these systems, with all parties focused on the ultimate goal of improving student achievement."

The report opens with a message from Torlakson, himself a teacher, who notes that budget cuts and other factors have made teaching more difficult.

"The good news is that California is home to some of the very best ideas and research on how to train new teachers and principals, support them from their first days in the classroom to their last, and give them the kind of feedback they need to be even better," Torlakson said.

View the full report at cde.ca.gov. Search for Greatness by Design.

Parents Learn Latest On 'Core' Standards

California has joined a national movement to adopt common standards and assessments for English and math. The Long Beach Unified School District has been one of the most progressive school districts statewide when it comes to preparing for these "Common Core Standards."

The school district provided an online, five-page update for parents about the initial implementation of the standards. The report is printable in color and black and white at lbschools.net.

Names in the News

Cal State Long Beach film major **Aaron Finkle** and his friends **Francisco Martinez** and **Hasan Hamed** created a first place prize winning video that brought \$10,000 to Prisk Elementary School. The prize, which will help fund a computer lab at the school, was awarded as part of the recent Lots2Give contest held by retailer Big Lots. One of the film makers, Aaron, is the son of Prisk Principal **Cindy Young**.

In the same contest, Bancroft Middle School's video won a second place prize of \$5,000 to help fund new computers.