



# school bulletin

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

September 20, 2013

## Hughes, Longfellow Set Green Standard

Federal and state officials visited Longfellow Elementary School and Hughes Middle School this week to highlight the schools' exemplary environmental education and sustainability practices.

The visit was part of the U.S. Department of Education's "Education Built to Last" tour of schools in California, Washington and Oregon. The tour features schools that exhibit best practices in school building and grounds design, construction, operations and management to support health, equity, educational outcomes, energy efficiency and cost savings.

The tour was announced in June at the national Green Ribbon Schools Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. Hughes won a (Continued on next page)

## Chevron Gives CAMS \$100K for Career Ed

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science received a \$100,000 gift from Chevron this summer to support career and technical education. CAMS will use the funding to upgrade technology and instructional equipment, fund field trips, participate in professional development, and compete in national competitions.

Students at CAMS have the top SAT scores in the state, according to the most recent ranking of America's Best High Schools by Newsweek. CAMS also boasts the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation, according to the ranking. The school has won the National Blue Ribbon Award twice from the U.S. Department of Education.

Learn more at [lbschools.net/cams](http://lbschools.net/cams).

**LUNCH DUTY –** Superintendent Chris Steinhauser makes 60 pounds of chile verde at Nutrition Services as part of the California School Employees Association's Appreciating Classified Employees program, which gives administrators and trustees a chance to "walk a mile" in classified employees' shoes.



## Teachers of the Year Share Insights

Three outstanding Long Beach Unified School District teachers were recently selected as Teachers of the Year.

Kimberly Dueñas teaches English at Marshall Academy of the Arts, Ivy Gastelum teaches English at Cabrillo High School, and Katie Hickox teaches English at Millikan High School.

The three will be honored at a Los Angeles County Office of Education luncheon next week along with other teachers from throughout the county.

Kimberly Dueñas is new to Marshall this year after working with gifted and talented elementary school students and Reid High School students who need extra help prepping for the high school exit exam. She believes in the power of encouraging others.

"The impact teachers have on the lives of their students is immeasurable. The compassion my teachers granted me centers my obligation to extend that same regard to my students. It is my moral compass, my gravity," Dueñas said.

Helping students to realize their personal best through self-discipline and high standards is the greatest reward in teaching, said Dueñas, who recalled a struggling student at Reid.

"The real reward was in the watery eyes of Kevin, who hugged me upon hearing of his passing score, the faint hope of a high school diploma now a reality after having failed the exam seven times prior. I recall an exasperated Kevin running into my classroom the morning of the exam begging me to review the thinking maps I had modeled in class to help the students organize the essay portion. He said, 'I

can't do it.' I looked him in the eye and said calmly, 'You can and you will.'"

She strives to create an environment at school that provides needed support to students who may lack support at home.

"As a child, school was my saving grace mainly because my teachers provided me the academic support I did not always receive at home. My parents were divorced when I was in kindergarten due to my father's substance abuse, and I was often a 'latch-key' kid while my mother struggled to make ends meet as a waitress."

She takes a broad view of student success that reaches beyond her classroom.

"I open our doors to actively involve all stakeholders in student presentations and celebrations."

Cabrillo Co-Principal Elio Mendoza describes Ivy Gastelum as having "a magnanimous and energetic personality" that is hard to miss.

"At first, students don't know what to think about me," Gastelum said. "I don't really look like a regular 46-year-old veteran teacher or mother of two teenagers. I have spiky, bleach-blond hair and several piercings in each ear, a throwback to my college days writing for an LA-based punk rock magazine. I'm also only 5-foot-1, but make up for it with a loud voice. However, at an urban school, students respond to mutual respect, no matter how one appears. Trust does not happen immediately, but once it is built, once the kids know that I honestly have their best interests at heart and see them as individuals, they will rise to my expectations."

As a college student, Gastelum's accidental enrollment in a teaching course opened her eyes to becoming a teacher.

"I learned lesson-planning techniques and had to develop a unit based around a self-selected novel. I included art and music in my lessons, because I'd hated high school English, since answering questions at the ends of the chapters and listening to banter about literary merit had done almost nothing for my personal edification. The students in class responded favorably."

"Now, in my 21st year of teaching, I still incorporate art and music into my lessons. In fact, I've infused Multiple Intelligences Theory into my practice throughout my entire career."

Gastelum is a lifelong resident of Long Beach who takes great pride in giving back to her own community.

One of the ways Gastelum gives back is through her leadership of Cabrillo's AP English Literature Club, which raises funds to enable students to attend local theater and opera

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Dueñas



Gastelum

## • Top Teachers Share Best Practices

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productions, often for the first time in their lives.

"I cannot explain the joy of seeing 60 to 80 students, dressed to impress, stepping off a school bus into an elegant theater, viewing a play they've read and analyzed and know better than anyone else in the audience.

"I'm at home in an urban school setting, where the most needy can build on their successes and realize their dreams, where kids can be the first in their families to attend college, where students can walk across the stage toward opportunities they never knew existed."

Katie Hickox joined the profession after several years as a newspaper reporter for the Santa Fe New Mexican and the Orange County Register. She did not grow up dreaming of becoming a teacher.

"I paid more attention to writing newspaper stories in an after-school internship than to what was assigned for the next day's homework. I daydreamed in class and wondered later why the math homework seemed so mysterious. By junior year, I was a student adrift, a mediocre transcript fluttering in my wake."

She credits a high school teacher with helping her to develop more fully her "academic stamina," and, later, a routine assignment at the Register called her to teach.



**Hickox**

"When I visited classrooms for a series of articles on Tustin elementary schools, a profound emptiness cloaked my heart. The classroom was a world of purpose, of collaboration over competition, and a place of profound and spirited courage. The teachers I saw were braver than I ever could be covering a fire or political scandal. They spent their paychecks on classroom supplies and prizes. Their daily sacrifices for their students made a desire for a byline and 300,000 readers seem trite. They had to make so many decisions, the kind that don't make the front page but that may well change a life."

Guided by her determination to provide effective, differentiated instruction, she creates communities where every student can thrive.

"My days are guided by an idea of a favorite poet of mine, Robert Browning: Our reach must exceed our grasp, or what can our dreams be for?"

## 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 official sealed transcripts.

Upper division, graduate level or qualifying professional units will apply toward salary schedule placement advancement with the submission of official, sealed transcripts.

"Qualifying professional units" refers to coursework that meets one of the following requirements:

- 1) Professional coursework that is required for a credential or certificate (i.e., CLAD, BCLAD) issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing ("CCTC"); or
- 2) Upper division or graduate level courses which are designated as professional courses for educators by the college or university.

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

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools

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## • Green Standard

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National Green Ribbon Award from the federal Education Department this year, and Longfellow won the same award in 2012, which was the inaugural year of the national recognition program to honor schools' efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education.

"I'm thrilled to see these outstanding schools showcased as part of the national tour," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. "The students, teachers, parents and communities have made countless efforts to improve the environmental sustainability of their campuses, increase school health and boost academic achievement."

Learn more by searching for Green Ribbon at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net), [ed.gov](http://ed.gov) and [cde.ca.gov](http://cde.ca.gov).

## Aspiring Principals

Leadership Development is accepting applications for the Aspiring Principals Program. Employees who have demonstrated leadership experience and are currently serving as an assistant/vice principal or administrative assistant and are interested in pursuing a principalship should apply online by Friday Sept. 27. Learn more at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Leadership Development in the A-Z index, and then contact Kristi Kahl at [kkahl@lbschools.net](mailto:kkahl@lbschools.net) or ext. 8614 with questions.

## Dates to Remember

### October

	Character Education Month
	Filipino American History Month
	Energy Awareness Month
	Crisis Prevention Month
1	Back to School Night — Middle Schools
1	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
2	Back to School Night — High Schools
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
6-12	Fire Prevention Week
6-12	National Metric Week
8	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
9	Anniversary of Benjamin Bannecker's Death
9	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
14	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
14-18	National School Lunch Week
15	White Cane Day
15	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
16	National Bosses' Day
16	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
18	10:11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
20-26	National Character Counts Week
22	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
23-31	Red Ribbon Week
24	United Nations Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
25	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
26	Make a Difference Day
29	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
30	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00 — "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
31	Halloween
31	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8

## National Certification

A meeting on National Board Certification for teachers is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 in Room D at the Teacher Resource Center. National Certification is the nation's only advanced teacher certification. Interested candidates must submit their applications to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards by Dec. 1. To qualify for candidacy, educators must hold a bachelor's degree, possess a valid state teaching license and have completed three full years of teaching or counseling experience.

National Certification can offer license portability, contribute to Continuing Education Units and provide higher salary potential. Financial support is available for most candidates to help pay the costs.

For more information, visit [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org), call 1-800-22TEACH, or contact Chris Eckert at ext. 8628 or [ceckert@lbschools.net](mailto:ceckert@lbschools.net).

## In Memoriam

**Caroline Frost Towner**  
former psychologist  
July 29, 2013

**Atleta Millner**  
head teacher, Head Start  
Aug. 12, 2013