



# school bulletin

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

May 10, 2013

## CAMS Posts Best SAT Scores in State

Students at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science have the top SAT scores in the state, according to a ranking of America's Best High Schools released this week by Newsweek. CAMS also boasts the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation, according to the ranking.

CAMS students on average scored 2,168 on the SAT, out of a possible score of 2,400.

The accomplishment by CAMS is more poignant because 48 percent of students at the school qualify for subsidized meals, an indication of poverty challenges. A fourth of the students at CAMS are English Language Learners, meaning English is not their primary language.

"CAMS is another great example of a Long Beach Unified School District high school that is closing achievement gaps," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer said. "Congratulations to this outstanding school."

## Wilson Dance Team Takes National Title

The Wilson High School Advanced Dance Team won first place in its division recently at the Sharp National Dance and Cheer Competition in Las Vegas.

The 37-member team competed in several categories, including jazz and lyrical.

Dancers Courtney Goffney, Amanda Nakasuji and Claire Schulte won individual awards. Teacher Michele Mehler-Jusionis has been running the dance department for almost 10 years. The troupe's final dance concert of the year will be May 23 and 24 at the Wilson Auditorium.

**LAW WEEK –** Cabrillo High School student Ricardo Razo talks with Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert during Law Week, organized by the Cabrillo Academy of Law and Justice. The week included speakers, exhibits and activities related to public service and law-related careers.



## 6 High Schools Among Newsweek's Best

Six schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are among America's Best High Schools, according to the latest rankings released by Newsweek.

This year's rankings highlight the best 2,000 public high schools in the nation – those that are the most effective at turning out college-ready graduates. With about 22,000 public high schools in the United States, the schools that appear on the latest rankings have surpassed at least 91 percent of high schools nationwide.

The latest list is based on six weighted components: graduation rate, college acceptance rate, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Advanced International Certificate of Education tests taken per student, average SAT/ACT scores, average AP/IB/AICE

scores, and percent of students enrolled in at least one AP/IB/AICE course.

The six local schools' national rankings are:

- 618 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science

- 1,552 – Renaissance
- 1,645 – Polytechnic
- 1,848 – Lakewood
- 1,888 – Wilson
- 1,940 – Millikan

Last month, seven LBUSD schools made the Washington Post's list of America's top high schools, while four schools here earned a place on similar rankings by U.S. News and World Report.

View the latest rankings at Newsweek's partner website, [thedailybeast.com](http://thedailybeast.com). Search for "America's Best High Schools."

## Literacy Teacher Earns Top National Honor

The National Center for Family Literacy and Toyota honored Long Beach School for Adults teacher Carolyn Blocker with the 2013 Toyota Teacher of the Year Award recently at the National Conference on Family Literacy in Louisville, Ky.

Blocker has worked for the past seven years to improve the lives of more than 300 families as a parent education teacher at the School for Adults, which is run by the Long Beach Unified School District. Blocker was recognized for achieving high levels of parent engagement and a 90 percent retention of families, despite facing the hurdles of economic challenges and language barriers.

"At the beginning of each year, I look at the new group of parents as my garden; I know that we all grow as a result of our experiences together," says Blocker, who has more than

25 years of experience. "With family literacy as a foundation, parents become more confident, children become more prepared and families become more successful."

The local literacy program serves students ages one to eight and their families by providing adult education, parent education, early childhood or school-age education, and parent and child together time.

Many participants come from low-income families who reside in the most impoverished areas of Long Beach. Most parents are engaged in English as a Second Language or Adult Basic Education courses at the School for Adults or local elementary school campus while their children are in another classroom learning

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**Blocker**

## 9 Nominees Vie for Employee of the Year

More than 30 nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award were submitted for a total of nine nominees (many nominees received multiple nominations). The top winner is scheduled to be announced during the 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Classified Employee Celebration on Friday, May 17 at the Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill. The winning employee will be honored at noon.

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## \$7.5M Grant Supports Math Standards

The Long Beach Unified School District has earned a five-year, \$7.5 million grant from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation to support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics for K-8 students. These standards will transform the way children learn math, tapping into children's natural curiosity to make math more engaging, relevant and rigorous. The standards call on students to practice applying mathematical ways of thinking to real-world challenges.

California has joined a national movement to adopt common standards and assessments for English and math. LBUSD has been one of the most progressive school districts statewide in preparing for these Common Core Standards.

The new grant will be used to provide professional development for teachers and administrators, instructional coaching for teachers and administrators of high-need schools, and opportunities for face-to-face and virtual collaboration within schools and across the school

## Summer Film Class

The Renaissance High School Film Making program is now accepting students for summer.

The three-week session is designed for students in grades nine through 12, including incoming ninth graders.

Classes will be offered from 9 a.m. to noon for two sessions: June 24 to July 11, and July 15 to Aug. 1. The classes take place on the Renaissance campus at 235 W. 8th St.

Sign up or learn more by contacting Leslie Gilpin at 425-1281, ext. 3120 or [lgilpin@lbschools.net](mailto:lgilpin@lbschools.net).

## In Memoriam

### Bill Seal

former activities director  
March 15, 2013

### Ruth Wright

former teacher  
March 15, 2013

### Emmett Garvin

former teacher  
March 19, 2013

### Darrell Mac Pherson

former teacher  
March 29, 2013

### Kimberly Bergan

food service worker, Roosevelt  
April 4, 2013

### Lelia Wright

former teacher  
April 8, 2013

### Rauline Boland

teacher, Emerson  
April 19, 2013

### Bob Ware

former vice principal  
April 22, 2013

district. Instructional materials and assessments will be aligned to the new standards.

"We're firmly committed to implementing these world-class standards," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "We're excited to be a grantee because these resources will help us to faithfully implement the standards. As a result, more students will be prepared for college and careers."

Nine other California school districts are grantees: Dinuba, Elk Grove, Garden Grove, Oakland, Oceanside, Sacramento City, San Francisco, Sanger, and Santa Ana. These districts will share the challenges and successes they encounter in implementing the standards. Lessons learned from these districts will be made available for all districts in California.

## Bullying Prevention

A bullying prevention symposium sponsored by the Long Beach Unified School District and the City of Long Beach is scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, May 17 at Cesar Chavez Park, 401 Golden Ave.

The purpose of the symposium, "Bringing the Village Together in Support of Youth," is to share community resources on the topic of bullying. Participants will include representatives from city offices, school district programs and partnering community agencies.

A keynote presentation will be provided by Susan Isaacs, trainer for Safe and Civil Schools, on the need to create communities that support positive behaviors. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call 570-3150.

## Retirements, Leaves

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2013-14 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible. Resignations and requests for full-year leaves of absence received after June 30, 2013 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement. Questions? Contact Bobbie Montes at ext. 8108 or [bmontes@lbschools.net](mailto:bmontes@lbschools.net).

According to Article VI, "Compensation," in the TALB contract, "Employees who have served a complete contract year are eligible for district-paid benefits through Sept. 30." For questions about the duration of benefits, contact Risk Management at ext. 8233.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER  
Superintendent of Schools

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## • Literacy Teacher

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age-appropriate skills.

Blocker will receive \$20,000, which she plans to use to implement a program called Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead in the LBC. This new initiative will give families the opportunity to explore their Long Beach City community through the lens of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (S.T.E.A.M.), a curriculum framework that merges sciences and the arts. In this family engagement project, parents will attend regular workshops and plan five parent-and-child excursions in the community, using a more global educational approach while building a stronger workforce.

For 17 years, Toyota has sponsored the Teacher of the Year award in partnership with the National Center for Family Literacy to honor educators nationwide who reach beyond the classroom to impact families' lives.

"We are so excited to honor Carolyn Blocker with the Toyota Teacher of the Year award," said Patricia Salas Pineda, vice president of National Philanthropy and the Toyota USA Foundation at Toyota Motor North America. "Her extraordinary work promoting family literacy in her community is a testament to the fact that when parents and children learn together great things can happen."

"Carolyn's vision, wisdom and hard work are a testament to the ultimate goal of NCFL – engaging families in the pursuit of learning together," said Sharon Darling, president and founder of NCFL.

Since 1991, Toyota and NCFL have forged successful programs to promote family literacy in the United States. Today, the Toyota/NCFL partnership accounts for 256 family literacy sites in 50 cities and 30 states.

The National Center for Family Literacy, founded in 1989 and based in Louisville, Ky., is a worldwide leader in family literacy. More than a million families have made positive educational and economic gains as a result of NCFL's work, which includes training more than 150,000 teachers and thousands of volunteers.

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

## • Employee of Year

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Parking is available on site. The baseball-themed lunch will include hot dogs, nachos, games and prizes.

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

This year's nominees are Gloria Archer, career center supervisor at Cabrillo; Courtney Brodsky, instructional aide at Prisk; Jason Church, plant supervisor at Wilson; Dawn Couch, high school office supervisor at Lakewood; Mary Ferregur; community liaison worker – bilingual Spanish at PALMS; Sylvia Flegal, office supervisor at MacArthur; Rita Lara, campus security officer at CAMS; Gilbert "James" VanLoon, warehouse materials processor at Purchasing; and Herminia Velasco, ASB financial technician at Robinson.

Nomination papers were submitted by colleagues and reviewed by a committee of classified employees. The nominees and winner also will be honored at an upcoming school board meeting.