



# school bulletin

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

April 26, 2013

## 4 High Schools Rank Highly in U.S. News

The newest ranking of America's best high schools by U.S. News and World Report includes four schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Among the four is a gold medal winner, the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, and three silver medal winners.



The four high schools earned the following rankings among thousands of public high schools:

- CAMS – state ranking of 13; national ranking of 94; gold medal
- Renaissance – state ranking of 313; national ranking of 1,380; silver medal
- Millikan – state ranking of 379; national ranking of 1,632; silver medal
- Lakewood – state ranking of 388; national ranking of 1,678; silver medal

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 awarded 4,805 gold, silver or bronze medals to the top schools. Learn more by searching for "best high schools" at [usnews.com](http://usnews.com).

## CAMS Again Named Distinguished School

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science is among 218 public high schools and middle schools named Distinguished Schools recently by the California Department of Education.

"It's always exciting to see the hard work of our students, teachers, support staff, parents and community partners recognized," CAMS Principal Janice Filer said. "We are delighted to be listed among some of California's finest schools. CAMS is fortunate to be named a California Distinguished School again. We also received this honor in 2009. I am proud to be part of such a great school and an outstanding district."

CAMS also has won the National Blue Ribbon Award twice from the U.S. Department of Education. The Class of 2012 at CAMS earned more than \$9 million in scholarships.

## 7 High Schools Make Washington Post List

A list of the nation's most challenging high schools, released by the Washington Post recently, includes seven schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

The 2013 rankings include schools that surpass 91 percent of other high schools nationwide in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep courses.

"We're delighted to see the high quality of our high schools recognized again on a national stage," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "We've maintained a consistent focus on college and career preparation, and that work is reflected in these latest rankings."

The Post divides the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2012 by the number of graduating seniors. Only 9 percent of about 22,000 U.S. public high schools

earned a place on this year's list.

The report by the Post includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local schools' national rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 750 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (48% subs. lunch)
- 1,141 – Wilson (57% subs. lunch)
- 1,147 – Millikan (58% subs. lunch)
- 1,406 – Poly (64% subs. lunch)
- 1,527 – Renaissance (63% subs. lunch)
- 1,772 – Lakewood (52% subs. lunch)
- 1,824 – Avalon (72% subs. lunch)

Each of these schools has repeatedly appeared on the Post's annual rankings.

Learn more at [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com). Search for "High School Challenge."

## Hughes Earns National Green Ribbon Award

Hughes Middle School is among 64 schools named this week by the U.S. Department of Education as National Green Ribbon Schools. The schools were honored for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education.

The announcement on Earth Day came from Washington, D.C., where U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, along with the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley, and Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Bob Perciasepe revealed the winners of the second annual award.

"We're thrilled to be recognized with this high honor," Hughes Principal Sally Gregory

said. "Congratulations to our Green Team parent volunteers, teachers, staff and students who have worked so hard to reduce our impact on the environment. They've set a national example, and we couldn't be prouder."

Secretary Duncan said the winning schools are modeling a comprehensive approach to being green.

"They are demonstrating ways schools can cut costs; improve health, performance and equity; and provide an education geared toward the jobs of the future," Duncan said. "In fact, the selected districts are saving millions of dollars as a result of their greening efforts."

The announcement marked the second year in a row that a Long Beach school has won the (Continued on next page)

**TWO FOR TWO –** Long Beach schools have won National Green Ribbon Awards during each of the program's first two years. Awards for eco-friendly practices went to Longfellow last year and Hughes this year. Hughes has 12 themed gardens like this one with signs describing environmental principles in the landscaping.



## Poly Students Win Business Contest

A team of students from Poly High School won the Project ECHO entrepreneurial business plan contest recently at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Poly surpassed teams from 25 other high schools. The Poly students' plan involved the sale of healthful foods at school through a food truck. Members of the winning team were Valerie Zawicki, Jazmyn Yap, Hannah Deighton, Elizabeth Robinet and Claire Cunningham.

Two other Poly teams also received awards. Students were advised by Poly economics teachers Jeff Montooth and Dan Adler, along with other ninth grade Poly PACE teachers.

The nonprofit Project ECHO is coordinated by entrepreneurs, teachers, graduate students and other supporters who provide a hands-on entrepreneurial experience to high school students throughout Southern California.

## Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Week
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 8 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 17 - 10:00, 1:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II, Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
5	Cinco de Mayo
5-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
7	National Teacher Day
7	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
8	California Day of the Teacher
8	National School Nurse Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 16 - 10:00, 1:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation - A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
12	Mothers Day
13-19	National Children's Book Week
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 24 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
18	Armed Forces Day
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
22	Harvey Milk Day
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 23 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 30 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 31 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
27	Memorial Day
29	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
31	World No Tobacco Day

## In Memoriam

**Jeanne Contreras**  
recreation aide, Harte  
March 6, 2013

**Lydia Torres**  
teacher, Millikan  
March 7, 2013

**Terry Pikop**  
teacher, Lakewood  
March 11, 2013

## State Business Group Honors 17 Schools

Seventeen schools, a new record for the Long Beach Unified School District, were named recently to the California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll, for overall academic achievement and for reducing achievement gaps among student populations.

The Honor Roll is broken into three parts, the first being Star Schools, or those with significant populations of disadvantaged students who have shown a notable increase in grade-level proficiency. Making this list were Bryant, Kettering, Longfellow, Los Cerritos and Webster elementary schools; Bancroft and

Stanford middle schools; and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

The second tier is Scholar Schools, or those that are showing significant levels of academic achievement without a significant population of disadvantaged students. That list includes Carver, Emerson, Fremont, Gant, Lowell, Naples and Prisk elementary schools; Newcomb K-8 Academy; and Rogers Middle School.

The business group recognized a subset of the Honor Roll that has many low-income students and high levels of math and science achievement. Among these 100 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Honor Roll schools were CAMS and Kettering.

## Names in the News

Longfellow Elementary School fifth graders presented their technology projects recently at the Computer Using Educator's Student Showcase in Palm Springs. Using iMovie and green screen technologies, students shared their documentary news films with teachers from across the country. The team included students **Owen Skinner, Ben Rodriguez, Megan Dines and Kaelyn Moses**. Their teacher is **Chris Eckert**.

Cabrillo High School engineering and design students delivered a presentation to industry professionals recently, depicting a design for a spaceship. Observing the presentation at the El Segundo Air Force Base were senior members of the U.S. military, university directors, and MIT and Harvard graduates. Members of the student team were **Jeth Dimarucot, Marco Flores, Celso Gallardo, Kelly Garcia, Gilmer Navarro, Oscar Sevilla and Kristan Tate**.

LBUSD's Concerned African American Parents (CAAP) group recently announced the winners of their Student Orator Contest. Participants in grades 3 to 5 were **Caleb Jackson** of Bixby (1st place), **Aaliya Smith** of Burbank (2nd), and **Jordan Turner** of Lafayette (3rd). Participants in grades 6 to 8 were **Tatiana Tate** of Bancroft (1st), **LaGina Weaver** of Hill (2nd), **Stone Houston** of Robinson (3rd), and **Cirra Crooms** of Hughes. Participants in grades 9 to 12 were **Clyde (CJ) Weaver** of Millikan (1st), **Taryne Chatman** of Millikan (2nd), **Sabrina Montgomery** of Millikan (3rd), and **Ebony Priddie** of Renaissance. On hand for the contest was former LBUSD Board of Education President **Bobbie Smith**, who praised the students for their presentations and donated two freshly baked sweet potato pies for a CAAP drawing in honor of Black History Month. Winners received gift cards donated by businesses.

## Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2013-14 school year. Refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

The application can be accessed through the myLBUSD portal at **lbschools.net**.

Requests for Transfer forms are also available at school sites and the TALB office, and they can be downloaded at **lbschools.net** under Human Resource Services. Select "For Current Employees."

The deadline to apply for transfers is Wednesday, May 1. For more information, call ext. 8635.

Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School is preparing to return to its status as a district elementary school. While this process – including Board of Education approval – is taking place, teachers who are interested in requesting a transfer to Emerson may add Emerson to their applications, or email Karen Kemp at **Kkemp@lbschools.net** by May 1.

## • Green Ribbon

(Continued from first page)  
national honor. Last year, Longfellow Elementary School, located adjacent to Hughes, earned the award.

Hughes earned a U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star 2012 award for energy conservation, with a perfect score of 100. Since 2007, students have built 12 themed gardens and planted more than 40 campus trees. New landscaping on the campus perimeter includes plants known to capture particulate matter, in an effort to improve air quality for the school and its neighbors.

Hughes' Student Green Team publishes the Green Gazette, a schoolwide eco-newsletter that includes healthy recipes using produce from the school's gardens. Interpretive signs outline the environmental principles in the school's landscaping, like composting, vegetable gardening, xeriscaping, butterfly gardening, recycling, biodiversity, beneficial herbs, and labyrinth walking. Hughes partners with a local bike store to host monthly bike repair and safety workshops on campus, encouraging ridership throughout the community.

Hughes supports environmental service projects by students, staff and community members, resulting in hundreds of students actively participating in eco-service projects each year.

### 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)

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Superintendent of Schools

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