



# school bulletin

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

September 19, 2014

## Newsweek: CAMS Ranks 4th in Nation

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science, a high school soon to be replicated in East Long Beach, ranks fourth nationally on Newsweek's list of schools that are "beating the odds."

Newsweek ranked schools on how well they prepare their students for college, taking students' socioeconomic backgrounds into account.

Newsweek sought to recognize schools that are closing achievement gaps by performing better than statistically expected for their level of poverty. About half of the students at CAMS qualify for subsidized meals based upon family income.

"Our rankings aim to identify the public high schools in the U.S. that do the best job of preparing students for college and overcome the obstacles posed by socioeconomic inequality," Newsweek stated.

CAMS also made Newsweek's "absolute"



ranking of high schools regardless of student demographics, earning 186th place out of the 500 schools that made that highly selective list.

Newsweek ranked the schools by creating a College Readiness Score using data on graduation rates, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate college prep exams, SAT and ACT exams, counselor-to-student ratio and other factors.

CAMS earned a college readiness score of 99.73, placing the school in the top 1 percent of the 500 schools appearing on the "beating the odds" list.

Located on the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus, CAMS is accustomed to national recognition. Last year's ranking of America's Best High Schools by Newsweek reported that CAMS achieved the top SAT scores in the state, and the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation. CAMS has repeatedly earned both the

(Continued on next page)

## Feds OK Extension Of NCLB Waiver

The U.S. Department of Education has granted a one-year extension of a waiver from No Child Left Behind accountability rules for a collaborative of seven school districts that includes the Long Beach Unified School District

The extension allows the school districts to continue implementing their School Quality Improvement System for federal school accountability purposes.

The U.S. Department of Education granted the original one-year waiver in August of 2013 to the school districts, whose consortium is called the California Office to Reform Education, or CORE.

The other participating school districts are Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Sanger and Santa Ana.

The waiver provides flexibility to improve efforts to prepare all students for college and careers. Like the Local Control Funding Formula approved by California last year, this waiver returns more control and flexibility to the local level. The waiver replaces a restrictive, punitive system with one that rewards improvement and provides help to schools that need it.

Across the CORE network, districts have increased graduation rates and attendance while decreasing suspensions. In addition, college readiness has increased across a range of measures that are not included in state and federal accountability systems. However, CORE districts are holding themselves accountable for these measures through the School Quality Improvement System, ensuring that they are addressing the things that are important for success in school.

Learn more at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Federal Waiver in the A-Z index and at [coredistricts.org](http://coredistricts.org).

## More Students Master Multiple Languages

Nearly 700 members of the Class of 2014 in the Long Beach Unified School District earned the State Seal of Bilingualism, which recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing one or more languages in addition to English.

Recently compiled data show that 693 students earned a total of 706 Seals of Bilingualism, with some students meeting the criteria in more than one language. The languages for which LBUSD students earned seals include American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean and Spanish.

Nearly 25,000 graduating high school students across California this year earned the state recognition for achieving proficiency in multiple languages, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced.

"Fluency in more than one language has always been an admirable skill, but it's increasingly becoming one that's highly sought after by employers," Torlakson said.

"In California, we encourage and recognize this accomplishment because it's one more tool students have to help them succeed outside our classrooms," Torlakson added.

To qualify for the State Seal of Bilingualism, high school graduates must meet certain criteria, including proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English, demonstrated by passing a foreign language Advanced Placement examination with a score of three or higher, or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of four or higher; or suc-

cessful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language and attainment of an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in that course.

California pioneered the biliteracy seal, which was established in 2012. The recognition takes the form of gold seals affixed to the high school diplomas of qualified students. Since the program's inception, eight other states – New York, Texas, New Mexico, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Massachusetts, and Maryland – have begun replicating this program.

**NEWCOMB RISING** – The rebuilding of Newcomb K-8 School is 45 percent complete. The school, scheduled to open next fall, is one of several Measure K school bond projects that progressed during the summer, including the rebuilding of Roosevelt Elementary School. **Story on next page.**



## • CAMS Ranked 4th

(Continued from first page)  
California Distinguished School Award and the National Blue Ribbon Award.

U.S. News and World Report and The Washington Post also have named CAMS among America's top high schools.

CAMS will be replicated in East Long Beach starting next school year with an inaugural class of ninth graders at the new Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science. SAMS will be located at the Hill Classical Middle School site near Cal State Long Beach, where SAMS students will earn college credit while still in high school.

The middle school at Hill is being phased out to make room for CAMS. Because CAMS regularly receives twice as many applicants as the school can accommodate, the program is being replicated to meet high demand among students and parents.

## Dates to Remember

October	
	Character Education Month
	Filipino American History Month
	Energy Awareness Month
	National Principals Month
	Crime Prevention Month
2	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
3-4	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
5-11	Fire Prevention Week
5-11	National Metric Week
7	Back to School Night — High Schools
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
9	Anniversary of Benjamin Bannecker's Death
9	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
13	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
13-17	National School Lunch Week
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
15	White Cane Day
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
16	National Bosses' Day
16	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19-25	National Character Counts Week
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
23-31	Red Ribbon Week
23	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
24	United Nations Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
25	Make a Difference Day
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
29	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
30	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
31	Halloween
31	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8

## In Memoriam

**Robert Browning**  
former teacher  
Sept. 11, 2014



**HARD WORK PAYS OFF** – Wilson Classical High School co-principals Sandy Blazer and Gonzalo Moraga accept a \$25,000 check for their school from the Long Beach Unified School District, rewarding gains in Advanced Placement test pass rates. Wilson was among dozens of schools to receive a total of nearly \$220,000 in checks at a back-to-school LBUSD managers' meeting. Schools earned rewards for improving academic achievement and attendance.

## Names in the News

Cesar Chavez Elementary School teacher **Debra Palmer** is featured on Raytheon's website at [raytheon.com](http://raytheon.com). The fifth grade teacher is one of nearly 100 teachers nationwide to receive a Raytheon-Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Scholarship award, funded under a \$2 million grant from Raytheon Company. Her \$2,500 award covers training and classroom materials to help implement the EiE curriculum, which was developed by the Museum of Science in Boston.

## Bowling League

The Long Beach School Employees Bowling League will hold its initial meeting for the season at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1 at Cal Bowl, 2400 Carson St., Lakewood. Last year's team captains, or someone from each team, is asked to contact team members to gauge interest for the new season. If enough bowlers are interested, the league season will start 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8.

Contact Carol Eggers at (949) 951-3822.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Measure K Projects Shift into High Gear

While students and most staff took a break, summer vacation was the time when major Measure K construction projects shifted into high gear.

For example, Wilson Classical High School students returned from vacation to find four buildings sporting new clay tile roofs.

Improvements to walkways and the stadium ticket booth, concession stand and restrooms are planned for later this year.

At Jordan High School, 49 new portable classrooms were installed to house students while construction begins this fall on three two-story classroom buildings and a new cafeteria. Four single-story buildings and 17 outdated, portable classrooms were demolished in summer as part of the seven-year, \$140 million renovation of the entire campus.

At 10 other campuses across the district, 21 antiquated portables were demolished and removed, part of an ongoing effort to eliminate all outdated bungalows.

At the future site of Browning High School near Signal Hill, soil preparation was completed so that construction can begin later this fall on the college preparatory, thematic grade 9-12 school, one of five new small high schools to be funded by Measure K.

Meanwhile Mary Butler School, the future site of a small high school (and current temporary home of Roosevelt Elementary School) received a new exterior paint job.

After Roosevelt students return to their new campus, Butler will accommodate another group of students while Renaissance High School for the Arts receives \$40 million in renovations, including new buildings and portable removals.

The new Roosevelt site is about 50 percent complete, with the campus on schedule to open in the fall of 2015. Also set to open then is a re-built Newcomb Academy, now about 45 percent complete.

For the balance of the year and next spring, Measure K funds will pay for gymnasium renovations at Bancroft and Hoover middle schools, while auditoriums at Wilson and Polytechnic high schools will undergo major facelifts.

In addition, upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards will take place at Lowell, Willard and Washington schools.

Go to Measure K Bond Program in the A-Z Index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) for more information. Watch for next week's Measure K Update electronic newsletter for the latest information on Measure K projects.

## Teaming Up to Fight Hunger at Stephens

Long Beach Unified School District Nutrition Services recently teamed up with Stephens Middle School and a local church to provide food to needy families. During a back-to-school orientation event at Stephens, Nutrition Services set up a table and processed 175 school meal applications for students. At an adjacent table, Fountain of Life Covenant Church handed out 40 bags of food for families.

"The event was a big success," said Nutrition Services Manager Teri Bozarth. "We look forward to partnering with them again next year."