



school bulletin

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

January 10, 2003



CRUNCH--Heavy equipment takes the last bites out of North Long Beach landmark Dooley's Hardware. The site is the future home of the district's newest elementary school. The school is scheduled to open in 2005.

Poly Ranks Above 99.8% on AP Tests

What local high school now ranks among the top 36 public and private high schools in the U.S. on the number of Advanced Placement tests taken and passed?

The latest national ranking places Poly High School 36th among 22,991 high schools--higher than 99.839 percent of the high schools in the nation. Only a handful of the best public schools and expensive elite private prep schools have comparable records.

Poly PACE adviser Dick Garretson received official word this week from Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey that Poly is among "the best of the best" in the nation for the high quality of its Advanced Placement program. ETS is publisher of the AP and College Board tests.

Rigorous academic courses prepare Poly students to take and pass 22 different exams to earn advanced college academic credit while still in high school. Each year dozens of Poly graduates enter college as sophomores because they have already earned a full year of AP college credits.

Lakewood e-Grades

Lakewood High School teachers recently began posting students' grades on the school web page, www.lakewoodhigh.com. Students and parents armed with an identifying number and password may now access their current grades in any course or subject. This is the first school in the district and one of a handful in the U.S. to offer e-grades online.

O'Connell Picks Flores To Lead State Testing

Geno Flores, Long Beach Unified School District's administrator of assessment programs, this week was named deputy superintendent for assessment and accountability for the California Department of Education. He is one of only three deputy superintendents. He was appointed by new State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

Flores began working for the LBUSD in 1996 as an administrator in the Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation. He has served as the school district's accountability coordinator, overseeing high school testing,

high school exit exams, Advanced Placement Tests and Golden State Exams. He ran the district's California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS), a database that gathers information on staff and student characteristics,

enrollment and hiring practices from districts throughout the state. He represented the school district at all State Board of Education meetings in which assessment and accountability were discussed. He is respected as a national expert on testing.



Flores

"I was noticed because I was doing my job representing Long

Beach," Flores said. "I now work for the six million kids of the State of California. My role is to help establish the best accountability system in the nation."

Flores, 50, served on and was later chair of the California Curriculum Commission and worked on the California Assessment Program. He was a member of the National History Standards Committee and helped write the national standards. He assisted with staff training for the Los Angeles County Office of Education and UCLA History-Geography Project. He served on the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Focus Group on History, and he worked as a project director for UCLA's Center for Research on Evaluation, Student Standards and Testing.

Flores grew up in Norwalk and was the first member of his family to go to college.

"I wish my dad were still alive," said Flores, whose father died last year. "He left high school to work during the Depression, and then he went off to World War II. When it came to his kids, though, he was always a big promoter of everybody going to school. He would have liked all this."

Flores earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Stanford University, where he began as an engineering student and graduated as a history major. He worked as a high school teacher for 20 years in Arroyo Grande, California, where he taught history, and coached football and baseball. He is pursuing his doctoral studies at UCLA.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 14 in the Community Room, Administration Building. Refreshments will be served.

The Family Committee meetings are informal sessions that encourage open dialogue between any interested employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

CAMS Wins National Architectural Award

The architectural design for the campus of the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) was recognized recently for Educational Design Excellence by *American School & University Magazine*. The national publication honors the best new school construction in the U.S.

Located on the campus of California State University Dominguez Hills, CAMS is a comprehensive four-year high school administered by the Long Beach Unified School District. It offers an innovative model curriculum that focuses on college-prep math and science.

The award-winning school includes state-of-the-art physics, chemistry, biology and computer labs, plus an applied technology room, integrated science room and high-tech classrooms.

The \$5.4 million facility was completed last year and has room for 620 students. HMC Architects created the award-winning design. A joint-use agreement allows CAMS to share facilities of the university. Along with their high school classes, CAMS students take and excel in regular college courses at CSUDH while they are still in high school and have earned a higher grade point average in those courses than the regular college students.

Major fundraising for the new facility was done by CAMS principal Dr. Kathleen Clark. Unlike other public schools, CAMS could not qualify for local school construction funds and had to appeal to many generous donors to build the new school with state matching funds.

CAMS' "outstanding buildings...integrate the high school and the university" and reflect the math and science theme of the school, according to the magazine. The architect used a mathematical grid and geometric forms to create a gateway to the university.

Virtually all of CAMS students graduate and are admitted to colleges and universities--many on math and science scholarships. All except one student at CAMS have already passed the new California High School Exit Exam, while about half of the high school students in the state have not yet passed the math portion of the test. The exit exam will be required to earn a diploma beginning in June 2004.

Millikan Gymnasium Dedicated to Howie

The gymnasium at Millikan High School will be dedicated next week in memory of Howard Lyon, a long-time teacher, coach and athletics administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District and former secretary of the Moore League. Lyon died last year.

The dedication ceremony will be held Wednesday, January 15 during halftime of the boys' basketball game between Millikan and Poly. Gametime is 7 p.m., with halftime expected at approximately 7:35 p.m.

During his career, Lyon coached basketball at both Millikan and Poly. He later coached varsity basketball at Biola University then returned to Long Beach to run intramural athletics for the district.

Anyone touched by Lyon's influence during the past five decades--former athletes, students, co-workers and friends--is welcome to attend. Contributions toward the Howard Lyon Memorial may be made at the event. For information, call 997-8000, ext. 4150.

Job Sharing Deadline

Permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2003-04 school year. In addition to permanent employees, non-permanent special education and bilingual teachers may apply.

Job sharing deadlines are:

- January 17--Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

- February 28--Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services. For additional information, contact Diana Galindo at ext. 8691.

Art Crafts a Comedy

What happens when a high school's psychologist trades places with the school's band director? Expect some looney tunes.

Dr. Art Kraft, retired LBUSD director of attendance service, has written a play, "The Switch," to answer that question. It opens tonight, January 10, at The Berubians Second Stage Theater, 431 N. Brookhurst, Anaheim, in the El Rancho Plaza, Ste. 140.

"The Switch" runs Friday and Saturday nights from January 10 through February 1. Curtain is at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and include complimentary hors d'oeuvres during intermission. For box office information, call (714) 635-1028.

In Memoriam

Edith Delapp
former secretary
December 20, 2002

Ed Graham
former teacher
January 3, 2003

Literacy Centers Help

The Madison and Stanford literacy centers offer intensive reading clinics for students who need rigorous, additional help in phonics, comprehension, spelling and composition.

A limited number of spaces are available for students from all areas of the district. Students attend the clinics six hours a day for seven weeks. Schools may refer students who have failed district reading benchmarks or are performing low on state tests. Schools may be required to pay a portion of instruction costs. For information on the Madison Literacy Center, call Alice Thompson at 420-7731. For information on the Stanford Literacy Center, call Cindy Galloway at 594-9793.

Only 10 Pints Short

Lakewood High School has already made a New Year's resolution: to regain its world record for donating blood. Last May, Lakewood students, staff and friends donated 421 pints of blood, a high school record. A high school in Texas recently broke Lakewood's record--by only nine pints.

Lakewood's goal in 2003 is to donate 600 pints, with the help of students, staff, alumni and friends throughout the district. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 22, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and plan to help them break the record.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for human resources assistant and school safety officer.

What Others Say

"This country in the 20th century won 168 Nobel Prizes in science. We sent a spaceship to Mars; we sent a man to the moon; we cracked the genetic code; we can order anything we want from our global shopping arcade in seconds; we've mined billions of dollars from a tiny microchip. I don't for a moment believe that this great nation doesn't have the means and the knowhow to teach every child to read by third grade and to get every child out of high school and ready for adulthood."

--Marian Wright Edelman
President, The Children's Defense Fund

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Events Celebrate K-8, High Schools

Education Celebration '03 will be held for thousands of students and parents on Saturday, January 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the California State University Long Beach Student Union. Guests enter State University Drive from Bellflower Blvd. and follow signs to the free parking.

Combining the features of a school choice fair, an exposition and a community festival, Education Celebration is a major draw to the public, attracting thousands of people each year. Families have the opportunity to visit the booths of every K-8 school in the district. They can also learn about magnet schools, GATE, School for Adults, after-school child care, special education and many other services.

LBUSD high schools will hold their informational meeting for parents on Saturday, January 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave.

For information, call ext. 8047.

Names in the News

Wendy Becker, teacher at Lowell, was honored by the Los Angeles Philharmonic as Grand Prize winner in its Music Matters Hero Contest. One of her students, Lauren Jones, wrote an essay nominating her for her use of music in the classroom as part of instruction and as a calming device. Becker received the honor at the Hollywood Bowl.

Outstanding VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools) for January include Judy Allen, Alvarado; Linda Campbell, DeMille; Xiomara Carranza, Roosevelt; Helen Jean Darrington, Webster; Jerry Lane, Franklin; Diane Marton, International; Barbara Peacock, Lafayette; Michelle Roberts, Burcham; Marie Thompson, Lakewood; and Judy Tomlinson, Bixby.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Dewey Myers, electronics supervisor, Maintenance;

Eddie Richardson, lead custodian, Cabrillo;

Sara Slater, accountant, Accounting.

GEAR UP-ortunity

LBUSD GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is searching for program coordinators for six middle schools. Contact Dr. Beth Bernstein-Yamashiro at ext. 8086 for more information or to arrange an interview.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Max Fraley	Jan. 31	Wayne Zimmerman ext. 6680
Mark Bailey	Jan. 31	Tu Yang ext. 5520