



school bulletin

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

May 16, 2003

Long Beach Head Start Now 'A National Model'

Long Beach Unified School District Head Start has earned the highest of U.S. honors by meeting or exceeding all 700 federal requirements during an independent, exhaustive, evaluation and week-long review. A national expert called Long Beach Head Start "the best I've ever seen."

"This is the very first review I've experienced where there were absolutely no findings of non-compliance," said Maria Fort, the federal team leader who began working in 1966 for the federal Head Start administration. "Our visit was superb and so very exciting. It was such a pleasurable week for the review team."

Fort led a team of 12 reviewers from throughout the nation as they visited nine Head Start centers here. They were impressed by the excellence and dedication of the staff.

"There were many, many strengths," said Fort, who has evaluated hundreds of Head Start programs. "Nowhere have I seen the kind of respect for and understanding of Head Start by a whole school district. There were lots of 'oohs' and 'ahs' during our visit. The team member from Florida said she was ready to move to Long Beach."

In the Long Beach area, Head Start assists 2,232 children and their families with 23 preschools, two Early Head Start centers and home-based services. Assistance includes education, health, nutrition, social services, and parental involvement activities for families with children five years old and younger.

Members of Fort's review team praised the school district's top leadership for their strong support of Head Start. They commended Head Start's parent outreach and numerous community partnerships. Head Start recruited 32 new business partners this year, more than any school or site in the district.

"Your community partners are an incredible

asset," Fort said. "People from the community happily give up their time to make this program better. These are doctors and nurses—people who are really busy—yet they are willing to help."

Also singled out for recognition were Head Start's curriculum and instruction, staff's devotion to children, nurturing care for parents, services for pregnant women, effective staff training, health programs including services for overweight children, seamless transition of students to kindergarten, and a "thorough and unique self assessment."

These strengths and local Head Start's total compliance with all U.S. requirements set an example for others, said Jerry Gomez, associate director for Head Start in California.

"Certainly any program that has no items of non-compliance is a model for the nation," he said.

Gwen Mathews, Long Beach Head Start director, gave credit for the "perfect" evaluation to Head Start teachers, staff, parents and the local Head Start Policy Council who put the education of children first.

"I am so proud of what you have done," she said. "You are truly important in the lives of thousands of children and their families."

Mathews also thanked evaluators for verifying the national excellence of Long Beach Head Start. They understand how local Head Starts compare not only to federal standards, but also to the rest of the nation.

The U.S. government launched Head Start in 1965 to overcome the effects of poverty on preschool children and their families.

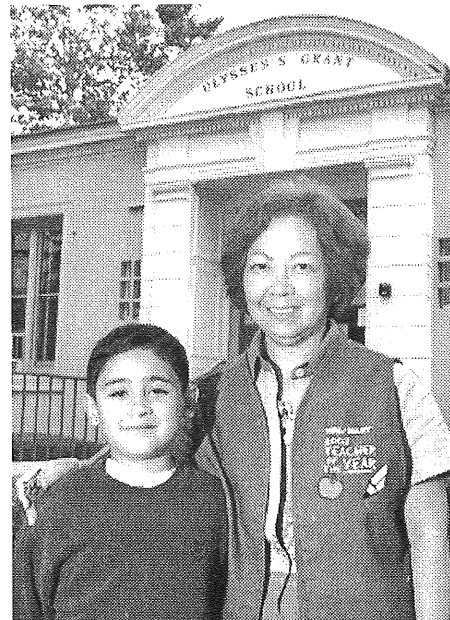
Broad Scholarships

The Broad Foundation announced 14 local high school seniors are recipients of scholarships worth a total of \$125,000. Each student was selected for remarkable improvement in academic achievement.

The scholarships are the result of Broad's selection of the Long Beach Unified School District as one of the top five large urban school districts in the nation.

Scholarship winners are Jordan's Virhel Barrera, Saul Melgarejo, Alba Menjivar, Lisette Sepulveda and Tristan Stewart; Cabrillo's Adisa Anderson; Lakewood's Monica Bordenave, Yolanda Caballero and Laura Operchuck; Millikan's Cynthia Durand and Rebeca Trinidad; and Wilson's Anner Alvarado, Ashlye Perez and Harmanjot Singh.

"These students' successes are terrific examples of what strong school systems can accomplish with educational innovation, resourcefulness and dedication," said Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation and The Broad Prize. "It is critical that we not only recognize the success of the school district, but that students reap the rewards of their hard work and commitment."



MIGUEL'S MAESTRA--Ofelia Aid, first grade teacher at Grant, is Wal-Mart's Local Teacher of the Year, thanks to the efforts of Miguel Camacho. Instead of clamoring for gum or candy in the checkout line at Wal-Mart, Miguel insisted that his mother help him fill out an award nomination form for his outstanding teacher. Employees of the store at Carson and Paramount donated \$1,000 to honor her. Known for her excellent family involvement, this totally dedicated teacher attracts 99 percent of parents to Open House, provides helpful family projects and has her husband and other relatives volunteering in her classroom.

Governor's Proposal Would Cut \$6 Million

Governor Gray Davis' May budget revision released this week brings more bad news to California public schools. In addition to the \$28 million in cuts the Long Beach Unified School District is already making, the governor has proposed a cut in state funding of K-12 schools that would reduce revenue here by another \$6 million. The legislature is expected to vote on the proposal next month.

"We're going to live through this," said Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. "We're fortunate to be in better financial condition than many other school districts. We're committed to keeping cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. Unlike many other districts, we have averted layoffs. We'll have to make our lean operation even leaner, but we can do it. We refuse to allow the state's fiscal crisis to damage the education of our students."

Bonds Highly Rated

If homeowners are pleased with today's low interest rates, the Long Beach Unified School District is delighted with the low 4.51 percent interest rate it will pay on its latest school bond issue. The entire block of \$60 million in LBUSD bonds was sold in one day. One reason for the low interest and the high demand for the bonds is the high Aa3 bond rating.

Although the State of California's bond rating is expected to deteriorate as a result of the state budget crisis, the school district received the same high rating it received a year ago because of its sound financial condition. The excellent rating and low interest rate will allow taxpayers to save millions in bond interest and will provide more funds to use for construction and modernization of schools.

The bonds were approved as part of the \$295 million Measure A approved by voters in 1999. They are matched by state funds and can be used only to build or renovate schools.

Fall Administrative Applications Due

The district expects very few openings for administrative and leadership positions this year. However, applications are being accepted to establish eligibility lists to fill future vacancies that may occur for the following positions:

Administrative (requires a valid administrative credential): high school co-principal, middle school principal, assistant principal (middle school, high school), elementary school principal, elementary vice principal;

Leadership (administrative credential not required): program specialist, activities specialist (high school), administrative assistant.

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Friday, May 23. Application materials are available at all school sites and district offices or the HRS website at teach.lbusd.k12.ca.us.

Applicants who have questions may contact Diana Navarro at ext. 8257 or via e-mail at dnavarro@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

USC Urban Ed.D.

An information meeting about a new Ed.D. program at USC Rossier School of Education will be held Thursday, May 29, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Lakewood High School Library.

The new Ed.D. for Leaders in Urban Education offers students the opportunity to work in a professional relationship with faculty, doctoral students and educational organizations. Guided by teams of faculty and representatives of educational organizations, candidates work collaboratively on research projects, guided by teams of faculty and representatives of educational organizations, and can complete the degree in three years. For information, call (213) 740-2606.

PTA State Honor

The Long Beach Council of Parents and Teachers recently received a California PTA award for Council Membership Recognition. The creative membership award plaque and a large "California State PTA Award Winner" banner were shared with the Board of Education recently by PTA Council president Christie Watkins. She received the honor at the recent State PTA Convention in Sacramento.

In Memoriam

Albert Butler
former staff assistant
April 23, 2003

Wendell Austin
former program specialist
April 25, 2003

Christine Cherney
office supervisor, Muir
May 3, 2003

Helen Fruechting
former secretary
May 4, 2003

Garfield, Hill Honored for Human Relations

For successfully teaching character education and violence prevention, Garfield Elementary School, Hill Classical Middle School and the Long Beach Unified School District's unique new pilot Student Support Services Intervention Team recently earned commendations from the Long Beach Human Relations Commission.

The Commission presented the winners with certificates recognizing their outstanding work. The three honorees exemplify a districtwide commitment to human relations, said Bobbie Smith, president of the Board of Education. She described to the Commission the many ways local schools are teaching students to respect one another.

"We stand firmly against harassment," Smith said. "We do not tolerate hostile acts. A good education is something that no one can take away from you. It's a gift that lasts a lifetime. We must not allow hatred, intolerance or violence to deny any child that precious gift."

At Garfield, fifth graders serve as conflict managers on the playground. They receive classroom instruction from counselors on ways to resolve conflict peacefully. The school holds a Lunch Bunch with a selected group of students who discuss safety and behavior concerns with the assistant principal. Garfield rewards students' character and behavior with assemblies, field trips and incentives.

At Hill, the number of fights during the past three years has dropped from 50 to 14. The school has a waiting list of hundreds of students to enroll this fall. Hill attributes its success to a rigorous classical curriculum, high standards of dress and activities that improve behavior. Hill provides incentives for good character and community service. Teachers blend character lessons into English, history and other courses. P.E. teachers improve sportsmanship by teaching students to evaluate their behavior. The school has increased adult supervision throughout the day and offers organized sports during lunch so students can burn off excess energy without fights.

The Student Support Services Intervention Team is staffed by 12 school district psychologists, behavior specialists, court liaisons, attendance specialists and others. Since January, the Intervention Team upon request has responded daily to conflicts at schools. Team members arrive in pairs at any school where needed, helping to bring peaceful resolution to conflict. Team members also visit students and parents at home and in the community. They possess extensive knowledge of Cambodian, African American, Hispanic, Samoan and other

communities in the district. They steer students away from gangs. The team also provides mental health support to struggling students and families, including referrals to community services.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Monday, May 19, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Poly High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between any interested employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer.

QUEST Project Night

Millikan's QUEST Senior Project Night will be held on Wednesday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Millikan High School. QUEST seniors will display and demonstrate what they've learned through their year-long projects. They will present a fashion show, computer displays, music, dancing, theater, an art display and a wide variety of other entertaining, educational activities. School employees, guests and parents of future QUEST students are encouraged to attend the free public event.

Leave Requests Due

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2003-04 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 will not be approved unless the district is able to hire a suitable replacement. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Montes, program administrator, at ext. 8108 or via e-mail at bmontes@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

Summer Benefits

If a career change involves a resignation, how long do benefits continue? According to Article VI, "Compensation," in the TALB Contract, "Employees who have served a complete contract year are eligible for district-paid benefits through September 30." If you have any questions regarding duration of benefits, please contact Risk Management at ext. 8233.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Don Kephart	May 18	Kathy Scott 434-6491
Kerrill Kephart		
Nancy Stansfield	May 30	Dee Qualls 420-2631
Sue DeHardt	May 31	LaVonne Kruis ext. 3610
Tim Williams	June 2	Marty Key 439-6897
Betty Pepek		
Betty Creasey		
Margie Hull	June 3	Vickee Hasagawa ext. 2640
Maureen Allen	June 4	Kim Condon 925-2285

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.lbusd.k12.ca.us

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools
BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOBBIE SMITH, President
MARY STANTON, Vice President
JAMES CHOURA, Member
EDWARD EVELAND, Member
SUJA LOWENTHAL, Member
RUTH WEEMS, Student Member