



school bulletin

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

March 21, 2003

Let's Keep Our Focus on Learning

With war in Iraq and concern about homeland security, we have two key jobs: to make certain our students are safe and learning.

Each day we can teach students by our calm example that we are committed to their education and well being. We are determined not to allow the breaking news events of the day, as momentous as they may be, to disrupt their progress. We need to concentrate our efforts on their success and should not allow the war on TV to distract our attention or deter us from our mission.

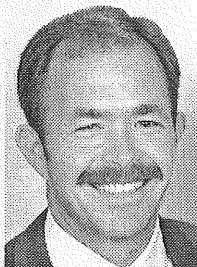
We are fortunate to have excellent school safety plans and districtwide emergency procedures in place. Our school district security team and crisis response teams are working closely with local law enforcement, fire departments and Red Cross to make certain they are available to respond rapidly if needed.

They are ready to do their jobs.

We must do ours.

It is best to leave the TV off in classrooms when young children are present. For any student who needs help dealing with these events, school psychologists, counselors and social workers are available to assist.

We want to get through these difficult times without allowing the conflict to take a toll on our schools and students. Thank you for your strong support of our commitment to keep all children safe and learning.



Lottery Lauds Wilcox

Edison Elementary School principal Scott Wilcox recently received the California Lottery's Exceptional Educator Award for dedication to education and students.

Wilcox was selected for improving student achievement at Edison, proving that all students can learn. He gave credit to "the great district I've had the opportunity to work for."

"I've only been principal for five years, and I have learned from so many people who have helped me," he said.

He was featured on the Saturday, March 15 broadcast of "The Big Spin." Producers of the show videotaped a segment for the program showing Edison students, teachers and parents. Wilcox received the award and a California State Assembly resolution from Assembly member Alan Lowenthal.

Special Days, Week

Schools in the Long Beach Unified School District will observe Wednesday, May 14 as California Day of the Teacher. Classified Employee Week is planned for May 18-24.

Despite Hard Times, District Averts Layoffs

The news of school employee layoffs has made headlines in dozens of California school districts during the past week. Fortunately, the Long Beach Unified School District has averted layoffs through a two-year classified hiring freeze and other savings efforts. The March 15 deadline to notify teachers of layoffs has resulted in calls from experienced teachers in other districts whose jobs are in jeopardy as a result of expected state budget cuts.

At a recent meeting of classified personnel directors from throughout Southern California,

Long Beach Unified School District was the only district that was not issuing massive classified layoff notices.

"We are very fortunate," said Ramon Curiel, personnel administrator.

The Long Beach Press-Telegram, in a March 17 editorial, cited the district's prudent planning. "It is a testament to the leadership of Long Beach Unified, the state's third largest district, that it did not have to issue a single pink slip last week."

In contrast, here was the news elsewhere:

- San Diego city schools sent layoff notices to 1,491 teachers.
 - San Jacinto sent notices to 46 of their 330 teachers, one nurse and six counselors.
 - Tamalpais Union High School District released 26 temporary teachers and sent layoff notices to 55 other employees.
 - Chico Unified School District sent notices to 215 temporary and permanent teachers.
 - San Ramon Valley school board voted
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Family Literacy Pays For Parents, Children

When the 12th annual National Conference on Family Literacy was held this week in Long Beach, 50 attendees made the time to visit the Family Literacy program at the Head Start Center at the Long Beach School for Adults.

Touching families and opening the door to a brighter future has been part of Long Beach Family Literacy for the past decade. Under the leadership of Roberta Lanterman, the program has grown from the original Burnett location to include four additional sites: Long Beach School for Adults, King Academy, the Career Transition Center of the City of Long Beach and the Cambodian Association of America.

The typical adult student achieves a 1.5 grade level increase in reading during the school year, and their children also benefit.

The amount and quality of time parents spend with their children increase dramatically by the end of the year, with 50 percent of parents spending two or more hours involved in literacy activities with their child each day. After participating in Family Literacy, 96 percent of the parents are reading to their children at least three times a week. Their children also achieved significant growth in literacy, academic and social skills needed to be successful in kindergarten.

The four key components of Family Literacy are:

- Adult Education: basic education, life skills, workplace skills and ESL;
- Children's Education: preschool-aged children, elementary-aged children and infants and toddlers;
- Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time: interactive parent-child literacy activities that strengthen the learning relationship between parent and child; and
- Parent Time: providing parents with information about child literacy and answering their developmental concerns.

All four components are offered at the five Family Literacy sites; however, the CTC also provides a customized workforce program. The Adult Education component includes Adult Basic Education (high school diploma, GED) and English as a Second Language instruction.



FAMILY LITERACY TIME--Gwen Mathews, LBUSD director of Head Start, discusses the district's exemplary Family Literacy effort with Joan Ohl, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, during a recent tour of Long Beach School for Adults. "This two-generational approach is so important, and it will lead to a two-generation success," said Ohl. "It's happening elsewhere, but here in Long Beach you are way ahead of the curve."

The Job Board

• Willard Elementary School is looking for a credentialed teacher with BCLAD certification, who is fluent in English and Spanish, for a Grade 5 Dual Immersion position. Interested teachers may call Julia Mendell, principal, at 438-9934.

• Henry Elementary School is interviewing BCLAD teachers for a third grade position in their Dual Immersion Program for the 2003-04 school year. To apply, contact Olga Moraga, magnet coordinator, at ext. 4625.

• Washington Intensive Learning Center is seeking credentialed teachers for open positions in grades 6-8 for the 2003-04 school year. A high-energy school, Washington's extended school day/school year, as well as its innovative curriculum, provides students with challenging educational opportunities. Teachers interested in applying for positions may submit letters of application directly to the school. For information, contact Donna McGinnis, ext. 5520.

• Webster Elementary School is looking for a kindergarten teacher for its Spanish-English Dual Immersion program for the 2003-04 school year. Those interested must be bilingual and ready to teach in both languages. For information, call ext. 5665.

• Hughes Middle School is seeking a 7th grade science teacher for its GATE program (TAP). Candidates should be trained in differentiating lessons for gifted students. Interested candidates should contact Kelly Hurley at ext. 2510.

• Powell Academy is seeking two reading specialists, one at the elementary level and one at the middle school level. Interested candidates must be strong in reading instruction with successful use of Open Court and Essential Elements of Instruction. For additional information, call Sparkle Peterson, principal, at (310) 631-8794.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Joyce Bachelder, intermediate food service worker, Cabrillo;

Dana Burrell, school safety supervisor, Security and Emergency Preparedness;

Alayne Pickens, instructional aide-intensive behavior treatment, The Willows;

Gwendolyn Walker Burroughs, intermediate food service worker, Wilson.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for intermediate food service worker, Kids Club lead assistant and senior food service worker.

In Memoriam

Merry-Lee Chambers
former teacher
March 4, 2003

Russell Kennedy
former skilled laborer
March 11, 2003

Dates to Remember

April	Keep America Beautiful Month
1	Mathematics Education Month
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Velveteen Rabbit" (Literature), Grades K-5, ed.tv Channel 8
1	5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 2 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 3 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30--
1	"KZH Highlights," ed.tv Channel 6
1	5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00; 2 - 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00; 3 - 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00--
1	"VIPS is," Channel 6
1	5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 2 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 3 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30--
1	"Ed.News, ed.tv Channel 12
1	6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; 2 - 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; 3 - 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30--
2	"Indochinese Culture, Part I: Their Countries and Educational Background," ed.tv Channel 10
2	International Children's Book Day
2	5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00; 3 - 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00-- "Adventures in Poetry," ed.tv Channel 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv Channel 8
6	Daylight Savings Time Day
6	California Poppy Day
6-12	National Library Week
9	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv Channel 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "No Time To Waste!" (Environmental Conservation), Grades 4-12, ed.tv Channel 8
12	Districtwide Science Fair
13-15	Cambodian New Year
14	Pan American Day
17-18	Passover, First Days
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv Channel 8
20	Easter Sunday
20-26	Administrative Professionals Week
20-26	National Student Leadership Week
20-26	Public School Volunteer Week
21-25	Spring Recess
21-27	National TV-Turnoff Week
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day U.S.A.
23	Administrative Professionals Day
23-24	Passover, Concluding Days
24	Take Our Daughters to Work Day
29	Holocaust Remembrance Day
29	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv Channel 8
30	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv Channel 8

Public Schools Week

The theme for Public Schools Week, March 31 through April 4, will be "Communication: The Key to Education--Together WE Can Make A Difference."

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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• Hard Times

(Continued from front page)

Tuesday night to hand pink slips to 270 teachers.

• West Contra Costa school board members agreed Monday night to send pink slips to 956 teachers.

• El Dorado Union High School District will reduce by up to 21 teachers the number of educators at its school sites.

• Cajon Valley Union School District will lose 37 kindergarten teaching positions next year and may eliminate eight bus routes.

• Oceanside sent out notices to 160 teachers and will scale back bus service.

• In the Huntington Beach City School District, 45 teachers received layoff notices.

• Mt. Diablo Unified School District is finalizing the list of 500 teachers and administrators who will be sent pink slips.

• The San Francisco Unified School District will mail out 1,000 layoff warning notices.

• Saddleback Valley Unified issued 209 lay-off notices.

• Pomona Unified voted to notify 80 intern and emergency credentialed teachers of possible layoffs.

• Upland's board voted to notify 185 employees that their jobs are no longer secure for the next school year.

• Fontana Unified school has sent out preliminary pink slips to 196 of its full-time employees.

• Laguna Beach school board issued notices to 57 educators--more than 43 percent of its staff.

• Cypress schools unanimously approved 36 teacher layoffs.

• Capistrano Unified sent out 233 pink slips to teachers and administrators.

• 145 of Novato School District's teachers received layoff notices.

• Del Mar Union School District sent 32 layoff or release notices.

• Eureka City Schools formally laid off nearly 40 teachers.

• San Leandro school board approved 119 layoff notices.

• Albany school district passed out 60 lay-off notices.

• 21 John Swett teachers received layoff notices.

• About 400 students walked out of class to protest teacher layoffs announced by Oakland Unified School District.

• More than 100 protesters called on Riverside Unified School District not to cut teachers.

• Even as thousands are receiving layoff notices, California is still spending millions of dollars to lure new teachers to the profession through programs created at the height of what state officials once thought was going to be a decade-long teacher shortage.

Presidential Award

Long Beach Unified School District is seeking outstanding math and science teachers who meet the following criteria to apply for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Applicants must be full time teachers in grades 7-12 math or science with at least five years prior experience in those subjects. Teachers who are interested in applying should contact Pat Kishi or Fran Pfeiffer at ext. 2901 or pkishi@lbusd.k12.ca.us.