



school bulletin

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

April 4, 2003

Board Approves New Graduation Requirement

A proposal to add a service learning graduation requirement for 26,000 high school students in California's third-largest school district this week was unanimously approved by the Board of Education. It will link classroom instruction with the real-world work of community service.

Starting with the class of 2007, all students must complete 40 hours of service learning in order to qualify for a high school diploma. An estimated 60 percent of local high school students already contribute at least this much community service.

Other major school districts from Chico to Chicago have successful service learning requirements. Some private and parochial schools have required students to contribute community service for years.

"It gives graduates a competitive edge," said Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "Universities and employers value these experiences, and most students find them motivating and rewarding."

Service learning allows students to apply what they're learning in selected core courses. Service learning would involve school clubs and campus activities and dozens of community and nonprofit organizations, as well as some of the 900 educational partners of local schools. Students could design their own projects outside of class or school within guidelines established by the district and high schools which connect the service they provide with classes they are taking. The goal is to help students see the value of what they are learning.

To avoid any hardship on a student or family, special accommodations would be made to allow all students to complete the service learning requirement for graduation.

Jennifer Gutierrez, Wilson High School's Most Inspiring Student Award winner this year, provides a striking example of service learning despite personal challenges. Her hard work and courage have opened many doors.

She is a 3.70 GPA honor student, aspiring to be a psychiatrist. She recently was accepted for admission to UCLA, UC Irvine and UC Riverside. She is also awaiting acceptances from USC, Stanford and La Verne. She will be the first member of her family to go to college.

In addition to helping her single mother care for her autistic older brother, she devotes several hours per week to service learning activities. Her father was recently released after serving several years in prison.

Jennifer volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, translating materials for deserving low-income applicants for housing. She encouraged her family to apply for one of the volunteer-built homes. Because of her efforts, which will include hundreds of hours helping to build their house, they hope to move into their own Habitat-built home early next year.

Jennifer is a member of Wilson's Zygomas Club, a senior women's service group whose

members include the 25 most involved and on-track students at the school. She participates in Best Buddies at Wilson, frequently spending time in activities assisting, befriending and encouraging special education students on campus.

As a volunteer for the National Honor Society, she visits patients in local convales-

Jennifer Gutierrez is one of the 88 Most Inspiring Student Award Winners being honored on April 16 by the Long Beach Education Foundation.

cent hospitals and participates in beach cleanups. As a member of Wilson's Ballet Folklórico Club, she regularly performs for community and church groups.

"My participation in school and community activities has contributed to my personal strength and maturity," she said. "I've met many people from whom I've learned a lot."

Local support for the service learning requirement is strong. Service learning was a key recommendation made by the Character Education Task Force to promote character education. The PTA and parent councils have indicated their support. Many high school teachers currently incorporate service learning into the curriculum, and all high schools have service-oriented clubs on campus and have seen the benefits from students who participate.

During the Principal for a Day debriefing this year, service learning activities were recommended by members of the Chamber of Commerce as a way to strengthen school and community collaboration and support.

Studies show that students who participate in community service earn better grades and show more interest in school than those who don't. They're also more likely

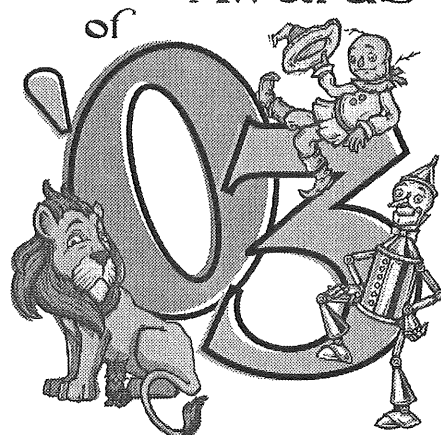
- not to take dangerous risks, such as doing drugs,
- to have higher self-esteem, be more responsible and feel more connected to the community,
- to have stronger social skills,
- to stay in school,
- to have regular attendance and perform well.

Service learning improves students' achievement, thinking skills, character and behavior. It strengthens community organizations and increases support for schools.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Monday, April 14, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Signal Hill Elementary School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between any interested employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

The Most Inspiring Students Awards



An Inspiring Dinner Honors 88 Students

The most inspiring student from each school in the Long Beach Unified School District will be honored at the Seventh Annual Long Beach Education Foundation Most Inspiring Student Awards Dinner. The April 16 event at the Long Beach Hilton starts with check-in at 5 p.m. and dinner at 5:45.

The theme for this year's event is the Wizard of Oz. Writer Roger Baum, great-grandson of Frank Baum, the author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, will speak about wisdom, courage and heart.

A student from every school in the district will be honored for inspiring others by overcoming obstacles. Each of the students heartwarming stories was selected for exemplary achievement, tenacity or beating the odds against their success.

"These students are bigger heroes than you'll find in the movies," said Steve Chesser, president of the Foundation Board of Directors. Frank Mottek, news broadcaster for KNX Radio and KTLA, Channel 5, will be the master of ceremonies. Mayor Beverly O'Neill and other special guests--the Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow and Tin Man--will be there to pay tribute to these students.

The Assistance League of Long Beach will be honored for their outstanding service to Long Beach students through Operation School Bell and other philanthropies.

A few tickets are still available from the Long Beach Education Foundation at 997-8111. The donation is \$60. The event is expected to be sold out next week.

Science Fair Soon

The 8th annual district-wide Science Fair will be held Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lakewood High School.

More than 1,200 excited young science students from 60 schools will display their science projects.

Teachers may wish to consider making a visit to the Science Fair an extra credit opportunity for students. Several science organizations will be presenting informal hands-on science activities at the fair.

Magnets Attract MSA

Magnet educators from hundreds of cities throughout the United States will meet in Long Beach for the 21st annual Magnet Schools of America (MSA) national conference April 5-10. The conference will be held for the first time in Long Beach as recognition of the high quality of magnet programs in the Long Beach Unified School District. Officers of the United States departments of Education and Civil Rights will also attend the conference and visit local schools.

Magnet teachers and administrators will present and attend workshops, host tours of 28 magnet schools and exchange ideas and successful methods with other magnet educators. LBUSD will share many of its innovations with more than 1,000 conference participants.

Special Education Transition Fair

Special education students age 14 to 21, their parents and teachers are invited to attend the Transition Fair at Millikan Library, Friday, April 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. The event provides information about workability skills development, mobility training and other services to help students with employment.

Service providers will be available to answer questions and provide helpful information: the Department of Rehabilitation, the Employment Development Department, Workforce Investment Act, the Job Corps and other agencies.

Several colleges that offer programs and assistance for special education students will be represented along with Long Beach Parks and Recreation, mental health and independent living experts and many other social services. There is no charge. Child care is available. Contact Leslie Gilpin at 422-6868 x221.

U.S. Science Camp

California Secretary for Education is seeking applications from top high school seniors interested in participating in the 2003 National Youth Science Camp: four weeks of lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists, three overnight expeditions into the national forest, and a visit to Washington, D.C.

National Youth Science Foundation funds the experience at no cost to those selected. The camp is held in the mountains of West Virginia, near the Monongahela National Forest June 26 to July 21.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, April 17. Application packets can also be downloaded at www.ose.ca.gov/nysc/index.html.

Is Your California Credential Current?

All certificated employees are required to keep their credentials and permits current at all times. The State of California does not allow a single minute of service without possessing a valid credential or permit. If employees allow a credential or permit to expire, or if they do not provide the state with evidence of meeting renewal requirements, they cannot remain in paid status in any California public school district.

Certificated employees may check their credential status by visiting the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing website at www.ctc.ca.gov, or they can contact a credential specialist for assistance at ext. 8008. The district will help employees to meet these state requirements.

The Job Board

- Fremont Elementary School, a California Distinguished School, is seeking dynamic teachers for a fourth grade GATE position and a third grade GATE position. Applicants should be GATE certified. For information, contact Diana Williams at ext. 6620.

- Hudson School is seeking high performing teachers for regular and accelerated elementary and middle school programs. Primary, intermediate and middle school positions may be open: Humanities Core (English/history) and Tech Core (math/science). Contact Wendy Clafin, principal, at ext. 5625.

- Hudson School is also searching for teachers trained in current reading and math interventions to teach in the district's homeless education program.

Bethune Transitional Center applicants must have a thorough knowledge of K-5 curriculum, strong classroom management skills and provide excellent instruction for various grade levels and abilities. Accelerating learning and working within a flexible team approach, teachers collaborate with community volunteer organizations, local homeless shelters and business partners. Grant writing skills are helpful. Contact Wendy Clafin at ext. 5625.

- Mann Elementary School is interviewing credentialed teachers for a grade 4/5 literacy position for the 2003-04 school year. Interested teachers must be strong in reading and writing instruction with successful implementation of Essential Elements of Instruction. Interested candidates should contact Wanda Oliver at ext. 6630.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Summer in the City

The GATE Office will host a summer activity fair, "Summer in the City." Parents and their children can visit booths with representatives and displays from local children's camps, sports, enrichment classes, museums and more.

Open to all parents and children, it will be held Tuesday, April 15, 4-6 p.m. at the Teachers Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St. For information, call Wendy Ebright at 426-9538.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Lakiesha Cotton, instructional aide-intensive behavior treatment, The Willows;

Takimya Gipson, school safety communications operator, Security;

Laura Hardie, lead custodian, Operations;

Maria Roath, intermediate food service worker, Cabrillo;

Kimberly White, lead custodian, Operations.

Mills Earns Her Ed.D.

Paula Mills, vice principal at Hudson School, recently completed her doctorate in Education and Behavioral Studies in Educational Leadership at Azusa Pacific University. Her dissertation was entitled "What Effect Does Mentoring a Beginning Teacher Have on the Teacher Coach? Mentors' Perceptions of the Mentoring Experience." She found that teacher coaches became even better teachers as a result of coaching new teachers.

Names in the News

Pam Sawyer, principal at Gant, and **Jan Bajza**, performing arts special events coordinator, were presented with the Arts in Education Hero of the Year Awards from the Carpenter Performing Arts Center at CSULB.

Recently named Outstanding Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) for February were **MaryAnn Carroll**, Grant; **Persida Guevarra**, CAMS; **Grace Plotkin**, Henry; **Laura Rose**, Hoover; **Josefina Sandoval**, Burnett; **Vicki Sheehan**, Gompers; **Cheryl Stanovich**, Burroughs; **Elizabeth Torres**, Burbank; **Niza Uribe**, Bryant; **Susan Wariner**, Buffum; and **Edith Weise**, Fremont.

Ten Poly CIC and Pacific Rim Academy DECA students will represent Long Beach and California at the International DECA Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida April 25-30: **Xiomara Ayala**, **Elijah Bowdre**, **Lauren Croom**, **Greg Johnson**, **Kyria Jones**, **Stephanie Mendez**, **Shane Thompson**, **Patrick Traugher** and **Ryan Williams**. Each student took top honors in marketing and management competition at the California DECA Career Development Conference at the Hilton in Costa Mesa March 1-2. This triumph qualified them for international competition.

Joseph Shawver, student at Millikan, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He, his two brothers and his father, **David Shawver**, a Millikan teacher, are all Eagle Scouts. **Marko Petkovic**, son of Millikan teacher **Rod Petkovic**, also recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout.