



school bulletin

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Valedictorians: Oh, The Places They'll Go

Outstanding students across the Long Beach Unified School District will be honored as valedictorians at their high school graduations next week.

Scholarships won by the Class of 2003 so far total nearly \$16 million.

Cabrillo--Valedictorian Rica Chua, who is a 4.0 grade point average student, will attend CSULB in the fall. Salutatorian Adisa Anderson will attend UC Irvine.

CAMS--While CAMS does not designate valedictorians, the school has seven students graduating with 4.0 grade point averages: Joel Crisostomo, UC Irvine; Andrew Gaydosh, CSULB; Benjamin Hadden, UC Berkeley; Tina Park, UCLA; Lalit Patel, Columbia; Andrea Tabor, New York University; and Kenneth Takeoka, UC Berkeley.

Jordan--Graduates with 4.0 grade point averages include Danny Duong, who will attend CSULB; Claudia Marquez, UC Riverside; and Samadi Yoeuth, CSULB. The prestigious International Baccalaureate program at Jordan will graduate 18 students this year, the largest total in the history of the program.

Lakewood--Valedictorians and the schools they will attend are Crystal Fischer, CSULB; Paul Lwin, U.S. Naval Academy; and John Shaw, UC Berkeley.

Millikan--Four valedictorians have 4.0 grade point averages: Tracy Cassman, who's heading to CSULB; Pamela Donohoo, who will attend Stanford; Dalina Thrift-Viveros, who will enroll at the California Institute of Technology; and Matt Walsh, who has qualified for the UC Irvine Honors Program.

Scholarships earned by top Millikan students include a full ride to Harvey Mudd, full ride to University of Oklahoma, a Broad Foundation scholarship, and a President's Scholarship to CSULB. Other graduates will attend Georgetown, UC Berkeley, Lewis and Clark College, University of Colorado,

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Caring Addams Kids

From their piggy banks, pockets and parents, caring children at Addams Elementary School have rounded up \$3,693.91 in pennies to help Ciana Cervantes, a 12-year-old girl with leukemia. They collected the money as part of the Pennies for Patients campaign of the Leukemia Society. They raised more than any other school in four counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

"Kids at our school don't have a lot of money," said principal Jill Rojas, "but they have very big hearts."

Third graders in Laura Blackstone's class led the school with \$258.57--almost \$10 per student. For their efforts, they were treated to a catered lunch by Olive Garden Restaurant.

TOP EMPLOYEE-- Lori Betschel, office supervisor at Tucker Elementary School, at this week's Board of Education meeting received the 2003 Classified Employee of the Year Award. Described as a "calm dynamo," she was named a finalist at the recent Western Roundup barbecue, where she was congratulated by Board President Bobbie Smith and Superintendent Christopher Steinhauer. (See story on back page.)



National Education Experts Inspect Schools

An inspection team scrutinized three Long Beach schools Wednesday to see whether the Long Beach Unified School District has what it takes to be called the top urban school system in America.

Long Beach Unified School District is one of five national finalists for the \$500,000 Broad Prize for Urban Education. After collecting information on student performance from the nation's top school systems, the evaluation team wanted to see Long Beach classrooms for themselves. The team of national education experts, assembled by the Los Angeles-based Eli Broad Foundation, visited Tucker Elementary School, Hill Classical Middle School and Wilson Classical High School.

At Wilson, a Broad Foundation team member said the district had made great strides as one of the outstanding urban school systems in the U.S. The Broad Prize for Urban Education will be announced in September.

"What we've seen in Long Beach is the closing of the achievement gap," said Gregory McGinity, Director of Policy for The Broad Foundation.

"Instead of having students of different ethnicities performing at different levels, Long Beach has been able to bring students together so everyone is achieving at a high level."

"You have an extraordinary group of successful educators that has done a lot of great work with students. It's something that Long Beach can be very, very proud of. The teachers and principals have worked very hard. They are an extraordinary group of people, and we're very glad to recognize them as one of the five finalists for the Broad prize."

In choosing Long Beach as a finalist from the nation's 16,000 school districts, evaluators gathered more than 20,000 pieces of information on student achievement in local schools.

The Broad Foundation evaluation team this week met several students who have shown great academic improvement. Among them was Wilson senior Anner Alvarado, one of 14 local seniors who will receive \$125,000 in college scholarships from the Broad Foundation.

When Alvarado enrolled at Wilson three years ago, he had just arrived from Guatemala and did not speak English. He is now fluent and taking Advanced Placement literature. He will now join the U.S. Marines and attend Long Beach City College.

"When I came here, I was struggling in my classes," Alvarado told the evaluators at a news conference in the Wilson Media Center. "But my teachers really pushed me, and I decided to learn English as quickly as possible. Going to Wilson has been a great opportunity, a great experience."

Evaluators said they will share Long Beach's successes with other school districts nationwide.

"You are pillars of hope for other school districts," said Jean Rutherford, director of educational initiatives for the National Center for Educational Accountability. "You prove it can be done."

Sleep Mode Saves

The energy managers and Technology and Information Services have developed new standards for district computers, which call for monitors to enter a "sleep" mode after 10 minutes of no activity. Monitors are brought out of the sleep mode by any keyboard activity or movement of the mouse.

This cost-cutting measure reduces the power requirements of more than 24,000 computers. Using the sleep mode only one hour a day will save the district \$92,000 per year.

Tucker's Calm Dynamo Employee of the Year

Lori Betschel, office supervisor at Tucker Elementary School, was named Classified Employee of the Year this week at the Board of Education meeting.

Co-workers call her "calm, positive, organized and a human dynamo." She was picked from 53 nominees and 10 finalists.

"This is a great honor," Betschel said. "The other nominees are such great people, I don't know how you picked just one."

In nominating Betschel, colleagues wrote,

15,000 Rotary Books

The Rotary Club of Long Beach recently donated 15,000 library books to 15 Long Beach Unified School District elementary schools as a result of its members' contributions to the Reading by 9 program this year.

In its fourth year of participating in the Reading by 9 program, Rotary has now contributed in excess of 45,000 books to 44 of the 62 elementary schools in the LBUSD.

"Our ultimate goal is to donate at least 1,000 books to each of the elementary schools in Long Beach," said past president Frank Newell, who announced the most recent donations at the Rotary meeting.

This year's recipient schools are Barton, Cleveland, Cubberley, Emerson, Gompers, Lafayette, Longfellow, Los Cerritos, MacArthur, Mann, Tincher, Twain, Webster and Whittier elementary schools. Librarians and principals from the 15 recipient schools attended the meeting. Crystal Miranda, librarian for Longfellow Elementary School, thanked the Rotarians on behalf of all of the librarians and principals and explained how important the books are to augment the school libraries.

This year's donation of 15,000 books was made possible as a result of the donation of nearly \$25,000 by the Rotary Charitable Foundation following Rotary's annual fundraising drive. Rotarians raised \$14,000 in a single meeting to spearhead this effort. For the fourth straight year, this donation represented the largest single donation of new library books to the LBUSD in its history.

"Words cannot express the pride I feel in our members' amazing generosity," said Rotary Club President Jim Worsham. "For the fourth straight year of the program's existence, our members have increased their donations to this worthwhile program to work for children's literacy."

Reading by 9 is one of several youth and education programs supported by the Rotary Club of Long Beach, the Rotary Charitable Foundation and Rotary Scholarship Foundation. The Rotary Club of Long Beach is the largest service club in the Long Beach area with more than 375 members and has served the Long Beach community since 1917.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for Head Start instructional aide and child nutrition specialist.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Diana Williams	June 18	Becky Halbmaier ext. 6620

"It is not uncommon to see her a bit tired on Monday morning only to find out she completed a huge school task over the weekend herself. She has a special way with students, staff and parents. She goes the extra mile for teachers, students and all members of the school. She is the guiding light of her extended family."

Other finalists honored Tuesday were: John Bosley, school safety officer at Marshall; Kim Eckert, staff secretary at the Math Curriculum Office; Patrisha Fertig, high school office supervisor at Avalon; Sylvia Flood, school community worker at Henry; Hortensia Isas, instructional aide at Madison; Ricardo Mora, a purchasing warehouse materials processor who died last month; Catherine Moran, senior office assistant at Avalon; Maria Nunez, school community worker at Burnett; and Deborah Wright, instructional aide at Monroe.

• Valedictorians

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Florida State, Rutgers and the University of Indiana.

Poly--Valedictorians have won scholarships and admission to the following colleges and universities: Kevin Brulois, MIT; Claire de Jong, Brown; Rey Doctora, UC Berkeley; Caryn Epstein, Columbia; Russel Fike, Columbia College of Chicago; Erica Ghotra, Tufts; Sam Grodin, CSULB; Pei-Lan Hsu, MIT; Julia McKinney, Stanford; Camille, Pacis, UCLA; Dominique Richardson, UCLA; Marielle Sallo, UCLA; Muriel Taing, UCSD; Loan Truong, USC; and Mayu Yonebayashi, Columbia. Students at Poly with 4.0 grade point averages include Kevin Brulois, Claire de Jong, Rey Doctora, Caryn Epstein, Russel Fike, Erica Ghotra, Samuel Grodin, Pei-Lan Hsu, Julia McKinney, Camille Pacis, Dominique Richardson, Marielle Sallo, Muriel Taing, Loan Truong and Mayu Yonebayashi.

Renaissance--Valedictorians and the schools they will attend are Rose Moon, Hope University; and Karla Robles, LBCC. Scholarships have been received from ALBEM, Bougess-White, Daughters of Democracy, Kiwanis Club, Long Beach Federal Credit Union, Marion Linger, Manuel Perez Scholarship and Rotary Club.

School for Adults--While LBSA does not have valedictorians, speakers at graduation are Student Council President Karla Kouyoumjian and Student Council Vice President Maria Alvarado. Both will attend LBCC.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Eighth Graders Earn Lough Scholarships

Five eighth graders have each earned \$500 scholarships from the Lyman W. and Nancy E. Lough Eighth Grade Scholarship Fund.

The awards go to students with average grades (2.0 to 2.9 GPA), good citizenship and a potential for future success. The winners traditionally are students who beat the odds by learning despite tough circumstances, such as a disability, a difficult home life or other challenge.

The winners and their schools are: Carmen Rose Parker, Bancroft; Markeith Jackson, Cubberley; Cynthia Tapia, Hamilton; Jay McGill, Hoover; and Mark Powell, Stephens. Each winner receives a plaque, and a scholarship check is presented upon enrollment in trade school or college.

The scholarships in escrow started after the Loughs provided funds 11 years ago. Any Long Beach Unified school with eighth graders can nominate one student. Each year, five winners are selected from a group of 20 finalists, each of whom receives an engraved plaque.

Individuals and corporations who would like to sponsor a scholarship in escrow may do so for only \$100 per year. The money is earmarked for a deserving eighth grader, with \$100 per year added during each year in high school for a total of \$500.

As part of the Lough Awards, an additional \$180-per-year scholarship from the Frangesch Memorial Fund went to student Elizabeth Rodriguez of Robinson. The fund was established in 1998 in memory of John Frangesch, a popular LBUSD elementary school principal who died shortly after his retirement.

To contribute to either fund, call the Long Beach Education Foundation at 997-8054.

Immigrants Succeed

A new RAND study shows that Hispanic immigrants to the United States and their children move up the economic and educational ladder just as quickly as European immigrants did generations earlier. As with previous generations, the newest wave of immigrants relies upon the same key resource to get ahead: America's public school system.

"A lot of the success we have seen from immigrant groups is because of the strong American school system," said James P. Smith, a RAND economist.

The Long Beach Unified School District is one of top five national finalists for the Broad Prize because it has closed the achievement gap among ethnic and immigrant groups.

"When people first come to live in America, one of the first places they go is to school," said Long Beach's Beverly O'Neill, mayor of the most diverse large city in the United States. She joined Broad's team of evaluators during visits to Long Beach schools this week.

The RAND study reported that generational improvements exist for all Hispanics combined. The improvements also characterize the most numerically important Hispanic group -- those from Mexico.

In public schools, the descendants of immigrants from Mexico and other Hispanic nations complete substantially more schooling and have higher incomes than the generation before, according to RAND's article in the May edition of the *American Economic Review*, the most prestigious and widely read scientific journal in economics.