



school bulletin

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

September 19, 2008

Schools Show Gains On State Test Scores

About 90 percent of schools here showed growth on the state Academic Performance Index, according to recently released results from the California Department of Education.

Cleveland Elementary showed the largest API score gains (65 points) among all schools in the district, and joined the "800 Club" with a new API score of 834.

Four other schools surpassed an API score of 800, including Henry at 818, Mann at 812, Bancroft at 813, and Hill at 812. With these new additions to the "800 Club," approximately one-third of LBUSD schools are now at or above the 800 API score target.

The index scores given to each school range from 200 to 1,000, and 800 is the performance target set by the state. Results were not yet available for Long Beach's 20 year-round schools, which administer tests later.

The latest results confirm that schools here continue to close achievement gaps – a key reason why the Long Beach Unified School District is again nominated for the national Broad Prize for Urban Education to be awarded in October.

National Newsletter Praises LBUSD Training

An extensive cover story from The Learning System, a National Staff Development Council newsletter, details the Long Beach Unified School District's successful professional development programs for teachers.

"Long Beach's sustained success provides an example to other districts, both large and small," states the article, which describes Long Beach's professional development programs

Berkeley, Stanford Report Lauds Long Beach

A recent report by UC Berkeley-based Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) praises the Long Beach Unified School District for its effective, systematic efforts to boost student performance.

"The Long Beach Unified School District is nationally recognized for its systematic use of data to improve district operations and improve student achievement," states the report, "Learning What Works: Continuous Improvement in California's Education System."

The report notes that the school district has developed an innovative Academic Data Browser. This intranet accessible system allows schools and teachers to access a variety of data on students, including attendance, grades and test scores. The availability of this student information helps schools place students in appropriate classes. The system also allows schools to identify trends or challenges related to student achievement.

Another example of Long Beach's effective use of data is the district's recent creation and implementation of a Saturday school program for English learners, the report states. Designed to improve language skills, this pro-

gram was created as a direct response to data showing a need for improvement in this area.

PACE was founded in 1983 as a cooperative venture between Stanford University and the University of California (Berkeley and Davis). It is an independent policy research center whose primary aim is to enrich education policy debate with sound analysis and hard evidence. PACE provides assistance to California policymakers, education professionals and the general public.



More Students Enroll In AP, Pass Exams

Significantly more students took rigorous Advanced Placement college preparatory classes in 2008 and passed AP exams, according to the latest enrollment numbers and test results from the Long Beach Unified School District.

In the 2007-08 school year, 4,305 students took at least one AP course, an increase of 394 students compared to the previous year. At the same time, the number of AP tests passed rose to 3,114 over the same period, a significant increase of about 5 percent.

The number of local students in AP courses has increased by more than 66 percent since 2003. "This is a remarkable achievement," said Superintendent Chris Steinhauser.

The school district has implemented a concerted effort to prepare more students for success in college and beyond. Further expansion of AP enrollment is planned as part of an Academic and Career Success Initiative recently approved by the Board of Education.

AP courses help to prepare students for the rigors of college while allowing them to earn university and college credit. The classes help parents to save thousands of dollars on tuition.

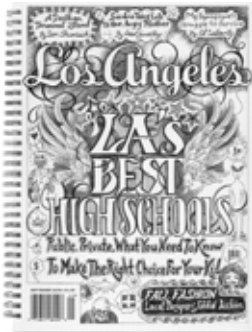
Long Beach Unified was one of the first school districts to pay for and require students to take the PSAT exam in tenth grade, helping to identify more students who have the potential to attend college.

The school district provides AP Summer Bridge workshops for hundreds of students new to Advanced Placement courses. Long Beach also provides a College-Board-sanctioned Advanced Placement Summer Institute that attracts more than 250 teachers who receive training in how to teach AP classes.

Poly, CAMS Listed Among L.A.'s Best Schools

A cover story on "L.A.'s Best High Schools" in the September edition of Los Angeles magazine includes Polytechnic High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

The magazine points out that CAMS enables students to take the equivalent of five years of science as well as courses in logic, university-level calculus, digital electronics and computer



for new teachers, veteran teachers and principals.

The article notes that more than 90 percent of new teachers hired in Long Beach return for a second year, and 93 percent of those return again for a third year.

A significant advantage of LBUSD's professional development efforts is its close relationship with local teacher education programs.

(Continued on next page)

design. CAMS is a regional high school at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

Poly was praised for its "national reputation for producing scholars, artists and athletes." Much of the school's success grows out of its small-scale learning communities – academies that specialize in math and science, the humanities and business and technology. The school's highly competitive PACE and CIC magnet programs are major feeders to the University of California system.

"The Grammy Foundation has honored Long Beach Poly for having one of the nation's best public school music departments," the magazine states.

"Its choral students have sung in Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and at Lincoln Center in New York, and Sports Illustrated has named the athletic department tops in the United States."

• Training Praised

(Continued from first page)

Most Long Beach Unified School District curriculum leaders also teach at California State University, Long Beach, which helps to prepare new teachers for the realities of local classrooms.

"When we hire them, they already know the Long Beach way," said history curriculum leader Linda Mehlbrech.

The article praises Long Beach's work to spread instructional consistency throughout the organization through pacing charts, common course assessments and studying the data they provide. The district also created a three-year new teacher training program coordinated with the state's Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA).

Long Beach provides five days of focused instruction on standards and EEEI for new teachers before school starts, another seven days of intense professional development focused on their needs during the first year, and five to seven days during their second year.

"At every level," the article says, "curriculum leaders provide support for teachers and principals, adding a human touch that helps develop relationships and create a culture of collaboration throughout the system."

Visit www.nsd.org for more information.

Salary Credit

Certificated employees may advance on the salary schedule by submitting proof of qualifying units to Human Resource Services.

After the first year of employment, salary changes will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2008-09 contract year if official transcripts are received by Nov. 1.

Salary changes based on transcripts submitted by new hires or after Nov. 1 apply to the next pay period after transcripts are submitted.

Upper division, graduate level or qualifying professional units will apply toward salary schedule placement advancement. Qualifying professional units are for courses required for a credential or certificate issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing or upper division and graduate level courses designated as professional courses for educators by the college or university.

For information, contact Human Resource Services at hrrshelp@lbschools.net.

Names in the News

Recent Class of 2008 graduates **Emily Frake**, Wilson, and **Patrick Shibley**, Poly, were presented with the Stellar Student Awards from U.S. Sen. Diane Feinstein, in recognition of their academic and community service accomplishments. Emily is now a scholar at Gonzaga University; Patrick studies at UC Berkeley.

Retirement Events

Honoree	Date	Contact
Gayle Reidy	Oct. 3	Vickee Hasegawa ext. 2640
Fitz Jones	Oct. 10	Martha Klevos mklevos@lbschools.net

Dates to Remember

October	Character Education Month
	Crime Prevention Month
	Disabilities Employment Awareness Month
	Filipino American History Month
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christopher Columbus," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
5-11	Fire Prevention Week
5-11	National Metric Week
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History is Written," Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8
9	Anniversary of Benjamin Bannecker's Death
9	Yom Kippur
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
13	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
13-17	National School Lunch Week
14	Back to School Night — Middle Schools
14-15	Sukkot
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
15	Back to School Night — High Schools
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Harriet Tubman," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
16	National Bosses' Day
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to Be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
20-24	National School Bus Safety Week
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
24	United Nations Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
25	Make a Difference Day
27-31	Red Ribbon Week
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
31	Halloween
31	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8

Update CPR Skills

Long Beach School for Adults at 3701 Willow Street will be offering a free Adult, Child and Infant CPR course Saturday, Oct. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The class will meet in the school auditorium. Successful completion of the course will provide participants with an American Red Cross CPR card. Call the LBSA at 595-8893 ext. 221 for more information. Pre-registration is required. The normal fees for the Adult, Child and Infant CPR course will be waived for those who take advantage of this one-time opportunity.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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National Certification

The Long Beach Unified School District has made a commitment to support teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification. Teachers who are accepted and successfully complete the Pre-Candidacy Program are eligible for payment of National Board application fees -- a \$2,665 savings.

Teachers who obtain National Board Certification are eligible for up to a 10 percent salary increase for the life of the certificate (10 years) in addition to any compensation provided through the state.

An information meeting to discuss the National Board Certification process and the district's Pre-Candidacy Program is scheduled for 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at the Teacher Resource Center, Room 3. Teachers do not need to attend a meeting to apply, and program applications may also be downloaded at the professional development section at www.lbschools.net. For further information, contact Lisa Isbell Hager, ext 2900.

Bowlers to Meet

The organizational meeting of the Teachers' Bowling League will be held at Cal Bowl in Lakewood on Wednesday, September 24 at 4 p.m. Any school employee, retiree or spouse may participate. League play starts Wednesday, October 8. For information, call 423-7839.

The Job Board

• Edison Elementary School is seeking a highly qualified Grade 4/5 literacy specialist with experience working with English Language Learners. Applicants should send cover letters and resumes to Richard Littlejohn, principal, by Friday, Sept. 26 via district mail or by fax at 435-2605.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., for ASB financial technician, intermediate payroll accounting technician and senior payroll accounting technician.

California Declines

In a comparison of K-12 per pupil educational spending, California ranked 29th among the 50 states in 2005-06, the latest figures available before this year's budget cuts.

Other large industrialized states spent far more: New York, \$14,884 per pupil; New Jersey, \$14,630. The U.S. average was \$9,138. California spent \$8,486.

In Memoriam

Eddie Hasson

former teacher, coach
Aug. 9, 2008

Paul Teschke

former assistant director, Curriculum
Sept. 7, 2008