



school bulletin

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

February 10, 2012

School Board to Fill District 5 Vacancy

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education decided this week that it will fill a vacancy on the board by appointment by March 23.

The District 5 seat on the five-member board became vacant Jan. 25 upon the resignation of the board's vice president, David Barton.

The school district will accept applications for the board seat until March 2. First-round interviews will be conducted by a committee that includes representatives from LBUSD's employee unions, management association and the Long Beach Council PTA. Facilitating the interview process will be Ruth Ashley, assistant superintendent of human resource services.

Second-round interviews of the top three candidates will be conducted by all members of the school board. Appointment of the winning candidate would be made at a special board meeting unofficially scheduled for Friday, March 23.

Application forms and more information will be made available at lbschools.net in the coming days.

North Long Beach Gains \$1M Grant

The Long Beach Unified School District will partner with the Long Beach Health Department, using a new \$1 million grant from Kaiser Permanente to improve the health of children and their families in North Long Beach.

The Health Department received the three-year Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) grant to promote public health. The department is the coordinating agency of the Coalition for a Healthy North Long Beach, an alliance of community groups – including the school district – focused on improving health for all residents in North Long Beach.

Students and their families will benefit from the grant at Starr King, Grant, Hamilton and Jordan schools. The grant will:

- Pilot the removal of flavored milk from breakfast at Starr King, Grant and Hamilton;
- Provide additional varieties of fruits and vegetables at Starr King, Grant, Hamilton and Jordan; and
- Promote healthy lifestyles among students, parents and staff.

The Health Department will undergo a nine-month planning phase that includes engagement with school communities. The investment in North Long Beach is part of Kaiser's \$7 million HEAL Zones initiative benefitting Southern California. HEAL Zones

(Continued on next page)

PREP RALLY — Ernesto Saldaña, of the nonprofit Preschool California urges the preservation of transitional kindergarten statewide. "Long Beach has been a leader on this issue for the past five years and has been a model for other districts," Saldaña said at Carver Elementary School.



Pushing to Preserve Transitional Kindergarten

Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser led educators, parents, grandparents, business and civic leaders in a rally this week opposing Gov. Brown's January budget proposal to eliminate transitional kindergarten and thus deny up to 125,000 children the right to attend school.

"For our young people who need more time, transitional kindergarten provides that opportunity," Steinhauser said during the event at Carver Elementary School. "What I've heard from teachers is that transitional kindergarten provides the opportunity for oral language development and time so that when students go to kindergarten, they're successful. It is the greatest thing we can do to close the achievement gap in California."

Fully implementing transitional kindergarten is in accordance with The Kindergarten Readiness Act – the California law that mandates changing the kindergarten entry date so that children enter school at age 5. The law also calls for establishing transitional kinder-

garten to serve younger students with birthdays between September and December.

Long Beach is moving forward with fully implementing transitional kindergarten, but statewide support for this program remains uncertain as California's budget crisis continues. For the past five years, LBUSD has offered some type of transitional kindergarten.

"We've been delighted with the results of our transitional kindergarten pilot program and have seen firsthand the tremendous benefits of giving our youngest students a smart start," Steinhauser said. "Our students are making dramatic progress, and graduates are entering kindergarten with the confidence and a love of learning that will follow them throughout their academic careers."

The rally kicked off a series of events across California organized by the Save Kindergarten coalition of school districts, superintendents, educators, parents, business and civic leaders.

(Continued on next page)

Record Turnout at Kindergarten Festival

The first of this year's four Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2012-13 kindergartners and their families attracted 655 people, a record high for the event.

Among those in attendance at the recent festival, held at the Buffum Learning Center, were 100 children who received free dental screenings. Each incoming kindergartner also received a free book and backpack with school supplies. More than 20 community agencies shared resources and information about their services.

At the festivals, parent workshops on math, reading, kindergarten readiness, transitional kindergarten and school district registration

procedures run from 9:20 to 10 a.m., 10:10 to 10:50 a.m., and 11 to 11:40 a.m.

Sponsors of the festival include Verizon, St. Mary Medical Center, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, the National Council of Jewish Women, Long Beach Rotary and Charitable Foundation, and Molina Medical.

All festivals are from 9 a.m. to noon. Upcoming festivals are:

- Saturday, Feb. 25, International Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave.
- Saturday, March 31, Mann Elementary School, 257 Coronado Ave.
- Saturday, April 28, Dooley Elementary School, 5075 Long Beach Blvd.

Jaycees Announce Grants to Teachers

The Long Beach Jaycee Foundation has announced the recipients of its 2011 Adopt-a-Teacher grants. The foundation awarded grants of \$250 to 22 teachers.

Among the grantees are Gerianne Smith of Gant Elementary School, Megan Kaplinsky of Stephens Middle School, and Roberta Patterson of Millikan High School. Respectively, they will now be able to stage an original musical play, purchase science laboratory equipment, and hold a student portfolio workshop offering guidance on completing college applications.

Caryn Cobb of Lakewood High School will purchase new hardbound copies of Dickens' classic *Great Expectations*, and Stacy Collins of Hughes Middle School will take her students to the Museum of Tolerance. Satinder Hawkins' 12th graders at Millikan will participate in an International Economic Summit conducted by the U.S. Federal Reserve. Karena Massengil's art students at Cabrillo High School will create and design projects with the latest digital imaging technology.

The foundation also presented a \$1,000 Grand Award to Tammy Tokunaga-Huckabee. The funds will provide materials to enable the teacher's current and future first graders at Riley Elementary School to create books of their own with their original writings. Her students will walk to local rehabilitation centers, elderly homes, or hospitals where they can read their own stories or books they have studied, and share pictures they have drawn.

Master's Degree Fair

Interested in earning your master's degree in education? The Cal State Long Beach Teacher Education Department will hold an information fair from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 at the Long Beach Unified School District Teacher Resource Center, ABC room. Faculty from curriculum and instruction, dual language development, math, early childhood and reading master's programs will answer questions.

CalPERS Workshops

Two CalPERS Retirement Planning Workshops for classified employees will be offered at the Personnel Commission on Thursday, March 22, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Representatives from CalPERS and LBUSD Payroll and Risk Management will answer questions. See site secretaries or call 435-5708 for a registration form.

Names in the News

Hoover Middle School physical education teacher and coach **Russell Widman** will be honored Feb. 27 at the City of Lakewood Hall of Fame awards banquet, where he will receive the Outstanding Sustained Contribution to Youth Sports Award for his accomplishments during the 2011 sports season.

Che Scott, counselor, was awarded a Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office IMPACT Award for his efforts to reduce truancy at Washington Middle School.

Adopt-a-Teacher was established to honor MaryPat Bamrick, a former Jaycee and elementary school teacher in Long Beach. Most of the funding for this program was raised through the Long Beach Street Food Fests, the foundation's events that bring gourmet food trucks to Rainbow Lagoon.



CHECK, PLEASE — Long Beach Jaycee Foundation President David Cannan presents a \$1,000 check to teacher Tammy Tokunaga-Huckabee.

Making Math Easier With iLearn Lessons

The Long Beach Unified School District is now offering students and parents an exciting new resource to help boost math achievement.

Students taking math courses in grades 6 to 12 can access a series of free video tutorials, practice tests and quizzes directly correlated to the chapters in their textbooks.

These interactive tutorials feature step-by-step problem solving videos on selected exercises directly from the textbook, with immediate scoring at the end of practice quizzes, and in some cases, chapter summary notes.

Parents and students may access these resources through their school's website. Click on the "iLearn" icon on the school website's home page, select a chapter from the course, and enter MATH as the user name, then LBUSD as the password.

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.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FELTON WILLIAMS, President
JOHN MCGINNIS, Member
JON MEYER, Member
MARY STANTON, Member

• Transitional K

(Continued from first page)

Supporting the Long Beach event were Preschool California, Families in Schools, Parent Institute for Quality Education Los Angeles, YMCA of Greater Long Beach, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the California Kindergarten Association, AARP, Los Angeles Urban League, InnerCity Struggle and the Alliance for Better Communities.

"California cannot build a strong future workforce without well-educated high school graduates who are ready for college and careers, and this effort must start with our youngest learners," said Sonia Campos-Rivera, Education Policy and Public Affairs Manager with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. "We support the full implementation of transitional kindergarten."

• \$1M Kaiser Grant

(Continued from first page)

are designed to make healthy options available to more people, and in turn to prevent diseases such as diabetes and heart disease that often result from obesity.

The vision of the HEAL Zones is that at the end of the three-year grant, communities will see greater opportunities for engaging in healthy behaviors like walking and biking on safe routes, buying affordable fresh fruits and vegetables close to home, exercising in parks and participating in active after-school programs daily.

The grant also ties into LBUSD's North Long Beach Initiative, which aims to make a planned \$105 million major renovation of Jordan High School a centerpiece for community revitalization.

Jordan Raises \$25K

A fundraising effort to help Jordan High School has raised more than \$25,000 in recent months, with most of the funds donated by alumni of the school.

"Jordan alumni have come through in spectacular fashion," said Jordan Principal Shawn Ashley. "I never suspected that the alumni would be so generous."

Jordan began the appeal for funding with a letter to alumni last fall. With the funding received so far in the Friends of Jordan account, the school has obtained a cargo container for storage, basketball uniforms, exhaust fans for the athletic training room and student store, and a refurbished weightroom. The funding also is covering fees for mock trial competitions and Academic Decathlon, along with buses for the school's Mathletes to attend competitions.

Leaving the District?

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year should submit a form to their site administrator by March 1.

Leave of absence request, resignation and retirement forms are available from site secretaries or at lbschools.net (go to Human Resource Services—Current Employees).