



school bulletin

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November 4, 2011

Study Lauds High Schools' Small Academies

Students enrolled in California Partnership Academies, a type of smaller learning community within larger high schools, are significantly more likely to graduate from high school and complete courses required to attend the University of California or California State University, says a report released by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

CPA academies in Long Beach include Poly High School's Pacific Rim Academy, along with Jordan High School's Aspirations in Medical Services Academy and its Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy, or ACE.

The academies follow a multiyear program focused on rigorous academics along with career and technical skills. California has

about 500 of the academies.

"A Profile of the California Partnership Academies 2009-2010," a review of test scores, attendance and graduation rates by the Career Academy Support Network at the University of California, Berkeley shows that 95 percent of seniors attending such academies go on to graduate, compared with 85 percent of students statewide.

The recent study also found that 57 percent of CPA graduates fulfilled the courses required for admission to UC or CSU systems, compared to 36 percent of graduates statewide.

African-American and Latino seniors graduated at significantly higher rates from CPAs. The difference was 16 percent higher for African-Americans and 14 percent higher for
(Continued on next page)



EVERY KID, EVERY DAY — Pepe the goat is kissed by Cubberley K-8 School Principal Terri Jarels at the school's fall carnival. The principal was selected for the honor by students who cast ballots. The carnival raised about \$8,000.

Tax Deductions For Musical Instruments

The Long Beach Unified School District's musical instrument drive kicks off this Saturday, Nov. 5 with a drop-off day scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon at the freeway-close Teacher Resource Center, 1299 E. 32nd St., Signal Hill.

Do you have a dusty, lonely instrument that needs a child? New and good quality, functioning used instruments are being accepted. Transform idle instruments into tax deductions by bringing them to Room C of the Teacher Resource Center.

Instruments needed are violin, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone.

Monetary donations toward the cause also are being accepted by the nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation at lbschools.net/give. Select the "Musical Instruments" designation in the dropdown menu to make a secure, online, tax deductible donation.

Music programs at LBUSD schools have earned national honors for their excellence, including GRAMMY Signature School awards. Students here routinely perform with some of the world's top musicians at national and international festivals. Experience LBUSD's musical excellence first-hand at the annual Band Spectacular on Nov. 15 (story on next page).

Family Literacy Project Wins National Honor

The Long Beach Family Literacy Program is one of 20 winners nationwide to receive an award from the National Center for Family Literacy.

The local literacy program serves 100 students (ages one to eight) and their families by providing adult education, parent education, early childhood or school-age education, and parent and child together time. Many participants come from low-income families who reside in the most impoverished areas of Long Beach. Most parents are engaged in English as a Second Language or Adult Basic Education courses at the Long Beach School for Adults or local elementary school campus while their children are in another classroom learning age-appropriate skills.

The award includes a \$500 grant from the

NCFL and Better World Books, a for-profit enterprise that diverts books from landfills by collecting and selling them online, matching each purchase with a donation.

The grant will promote creative ideas for using Wonderopolis® with families.

Wonderopolis.org was created by NCFL in 2010 to provide free, family-friendly content that is practical, easy to use and designed to engage children's natural curiosity and transform it into a lifelong love of learning. It was one of only five family websites that TIME Magazine named the 50 best websites in 2011.

"Parent education is a key component in family literacy programs," said Roberta Lanterman, program facilitator for the Long Beach project. "Being able to integrate online
(Continued on next page)

HEALTH FAIR — Beach High School math teacher Ronnie Roberts gets his cholesterol checked at the Long Beach Unified School District Health Fair. Open enrollment in health benefits for LBUSD employees continues through Nov. 30. Learn more at lbschools.net under Employee Benefits in the A-Z Index.



• Small Academies

(Continued from first page)

Latinos.

Funded jointly by the California Department of Education and the James Irvine Foundation, the report shows that even though 50 percent of CPA students enter the program as "at-risk students," they perform better than students at other California high schools.

Many CPAs are also part of the rapidly growing field of Linked Learning, an approach that provides students with strong academics connected to real world experience.

"This report shows that students succeed in high school when rigorous academics are linked with relevant career technical education and engagement with the world of adult work," said Christopher Cabaldon, executive director of the Linked Learning Alliance.

With more than 200 CPAs set to lose funding at the close of the school year, supporters of the programs hope the successes outlined in the study help protect and expand CPAs, Linked Learning programs and similar college-and-career pathways in California.

"These results are encouraging and provide one more reason to address the financial emergency facing our schools by investing in education again," Torlakson said. "We must continue to fund these successful programs and think boldly about how we build on these successes."

In addition to Long Beach's CPA academies, four programs here have earned the rigorous Linked Learning certification, including the COMPASS and PEACE academies at Millikan High School; the ACE Academy at Jordan High School; and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.

Read the full report at casn.berkeley.edu.

International Student Registration Closed

The International Student Registration (ISR) Center has now closed. Students should enroll at their neighborhood school. Students with a Home Language Survey indicating a language other than English will be assessed by Program Assistance for Language Minority Students (PALMS) student evaluation technicians at their school. For more information, call the PALMS Office at 997-8031.

Band Spectacular

The 27th Annual Long Beach Unified School District High School Band Spectacular will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at the Cabrillo High School stadium.

Marching bands from Cabrillo, Jordan, Lakewood, Millikan, Poly and Wilson high schools, along with their dance, drill and tall flag teams, will present their award-winning 2011 field shows. Special performances by the Long Beach City College Viking Show Band will also be featured. The evening culminates with a special performance of the combined bands.

Tickets are available in advance from high school band members or at the entrance to the performance. The suggested donation is \$5. All proceeds benefit high school band programs.



PITCHING IN — The Downtown Lions Club breaks ground on a landscape project at Hamilton Middle School. Long Beach's Redevelopment Agency also helped fund the project. Pictured are LBUSD Board of Education Member Mary Stanton, Lions Club President George Miller and the Lions Club's Hamilton Project Manager Hilda Gaytan.

Assistance League Aims to Clothe 7,500

Rick Rackers and the Assistance League of Long Beach are well on their way to their ambitious goal of clothing 7,500 children in school uniforms after providing 700 Burnett Elementary School students with new outfits.

The volunteers work throughout the year to clothe area students as part of Operation School Bell, which gives each child a backpack filled with socks, underwear, two shirts, two bottoms, a jacket and sweatshirt, school supplies and books donated by Molina Healthcare Foundation, according to Annette Kashiwabara, director of development for the Assistance League.

The Assistance League of Long Beach is the largest branch of the country's 120 leagues and works with four auxiliaries, including the Rick Rackers, to offer services to Long Beach Unified School District students. Over the years, the Assistance League has become an indispensable partner in the implementation of LBUSD's trend-setting school uniform policy,

• Family Literacy

(Continued from first page)

learning opportunities like those available on Wonderopolis.org not only teaches parents about resources available to them outside of the classroom, but also provides them with a resource to use to help their child's language and literacy skills grow."

The funding will be used to bridge technology gaps that exist within families, as well as to provide parents with an online valuable resource to obtain information, engage with their children, and create ways to continue to solidify family bonds.

"Wonderopolis is a free resource for families and schools, so hundreds of educators across the country already are using it to generate excitement for learning in schools, libraries and homes across the country," said Emily Kirkpatrick, vice president of NCFL. "But these grants will help the Long Beach Family Literacy Program magnify the reach and impact of this 21st Century online learning tool."

The Long Beach Family Literacy Program has been providing family literacy services to Long Beach families since 1992.

Funded by the State of California Even Start Office and First 5 Los Angeles, the literacy program is a collaborative partnership between the Long Beach Unified School District and the City of Long Beach/Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board.

which has earned national recognition.

The auxiliary's gala Rick Racker Ball is set for Saturday, Nov. 19. Tickets are on sale for \$150 for dinner, live music and a photo booth. Visit allb.org/rickrackers.htm or call 627-5650 for more information.

Poly High Students Donate to Jordan

Jordan High School, which recently launched a campaign to raise funds through alumni, received a phone call from Poly High School's student body president saying that each person in their student government class will donate \$10 to Jordan for a total of \$350.

"That is very cool," observed Shawn Ashley, the former Poly principal who is now principal at Jordan.

Audit Saves \$624K

Employees in the Long Beach Unified School District, who've recently gathered birth certificates, marriage licenses and other family documents as part of a routine audit to help control health care costs, may be pleased to know their efforts have helped to save over \$624,000 so far.

"Much of the savings has come from families whose circumstances have changed, and they simply needed to provide more current information," said John Relich, benefits coordinator for LBUSD's Risk Management Office. "That's why we initiated this audit, and we're grateful to employees for their cooperation."

Savings could reach \$1 million once all paperwork is processed.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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