

# Snap SHOTS



Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

February 2010

## In this issue

- New Horizons at UCLA
- Baseball Star Goes Back to School
- “Mendez” (Learning Mandarin at Mendez)
- Interventions at Ritter
- Santee Community Fair

## Upcoming

South LA Schools Happy Hour, 2/12, 4-7 pm  
La Huesteca Restaurant

Leadership Conference, 2/17, 8am-5 pm, Partnership Offices

Intervention & Acceleration Workshop, 2/18, 7am-3:30pm

Roosevelt SSTT (Small Schools Transition Team Meeting), 2/18, 7:30am-3:30 pm, Partnership Offices

Eastside and Central Schools Happy Hour, 2/19, 4-7pm, Eastside Luv Wine Bar

Intervention & Acceleration Workshop, 2/25, 7am-3:30pm Partnership Offices

### Partnership Families Discover New Possibilities at UCLA

For Roosevelt parent Barbara Martinez, spending a January Saturday touring and learning about UCLA "made me feel like my children have an opportunity to reach their goals." Mrs. Martinez was part of a group of more than 80 parents and 60 children who participated in a day-long tour where families learned how attendance at UCLA was attainable.

Among others, they met a UCLA and Roosevelt graduate who spoke about education being a right and not just a privilege. "It made us believe our children could belong there [UCLA] even though we come from low income families," said Mrs. Martinez. The trip was part of the monthly Family Leadership Institute the Partnership sponsors. An unexpected highlight of the trip occurred when the group stumbled accidentally into the music department and had the opportunity to hear Opera students practicing a piece. "I loved it," said Mrs. Martinez. "That was another first for me." The Partnership Leadership Institute for parents hopes to do another college tour at its March gathering; this time, USC. Click [here](#) to view more photos of the tour.



### Blue Jays Star Pitcher Ricky Romero Speaks to Stevenson Middle School

Toronto Blue Jays Starting Pitcher and Stevenson Middle School alum Ricky Romero returned to his alma mater last month to share his story of determination with more than 1200 students.

"Never quit and always believe in yourself. Believe in your ability forever and don't let anyone tell you

can't do it," he told an excited group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Ricky talked about the support he'd received from his parents, acknowledging his mother who was in the audience. And he spoke about the critical role academic discipline and physical fitness played in helping him achieve his dreams. Ricky is a former honor student and 2004 graduate of Roosevelt H.S, where he posted a 3.8 GPA. Romero started 29 games for Toronto in 2009, posting a 13-9 record. For a full video report of Ricky's visit click [here](#), or you can read about the visit at [Baseball Digest](#).

### The High School in East LA Where the Students Speak Mandarin

Chris Ortiz embarked on a bold experiment when he became principal of the new Mendez High School for Engineering and Technology. With a small learning community of less than 500 students, he decided to try and teach all students what he saw as the language of the future, Chinese. Today, Mandarin is the sole language offering at Mendez E&T. All new students are required to take two years of classes with Ms. Elaine Hu, the school's



Mandarin instructor. "In the beginning, they were all asking *what is Mandarin?*" says Ms. Hu, "But the biggest surprise for me has been how much they absorb. They're remembering about 80% of what they're taught on average." Thus far the classes have focused on pronunciation, greetings, characters of the alphabet, and constructing a family tree in Mandarin. Now, Ms. Hu's classes are preparing for 2010, Chinese New Year, Year of the Tiger.

### Ritter Teachers Coordinate School-wide Math and English Interventions

This year, teachers at Ritter Elementary have undertaken systematic review and planning of strategies and tactics to support all levels of learners within a classroom. Every six weeks, teachers use their Tuesday common planning time to meet, plan and agree upon specific interventions and accelerations in Math and Language Arts. Each classroom now dedicates at least 1/2 hour, four days a week, to invention and acceleration, with first and second grade classes adding additional half hours before and after recess. "It evolved from a workshop on Intervention and Acceleration put on by Toya and Myeisha," said Charlene Green, school

principal, referring to Toya Tate and Myeisha Phillips, Intervention and Accelerations specialists at the Partnership. Each student was tested prior to the program and will be tested at year-end to monitor progress.

### **Santee to Host Community Resource Fair**

Santee Education Complex will host a resource fair February 27 offering free H1N1 vaccinations, health screening, and tutoring; as well as information on after school programs, counseling, immigration, legal services and senior care. The event is sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Youth & Families and is intended to connect the community to city and county services. Mayor Villaraigosa is scheduled to appear as are members of the Chivas Soccer team. For more information, contact at [Cathy.Dang@lacity.org](mailto:Cathy.Dang@lacity.org) or 213.978.0766

Follow us on Facebook,  
Twitter, & Youtube



#### **The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools**

1541 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 200 Los Angeles, CA 90017  
[patrick.sinclair@partnershipla.org](mailto:patrick.sinclair@partnershipla.org) | [partnershipla.org](http://partnershipla.org)

