

Snap SHOTS



Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

News from the Partnership

December 2009

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Have a Specific Funding Need for Your Classroom?

DonorsChoose.org is a nonprofit organization connecting teachers in need of classroom materials with individuals who want to help. At DonorsChoose.org, public school teachers submit project requests for the specific materials, while donors across the country browse the website and fund the projects they find most compelling. Visit DonorsChoose.org to apply.

Upcoming events...

Small Schools Transition Team Meeting, January 20

Family Leadership Institute, January 23

Leadership Conference, January 27

Gompers Hosts Secretary of Education Duncan

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined Mayor Villaraigosa and a host of political, labor, community and education leaders from across the city at Gompers Middle School on December 10th to observe and discuss school reform in Los Angeles. Secretary Duncan first stopped by two classrooms to speak with students and teachers, and then held a brief meeting with a group of parents. Afterwards, the Secretary joined the Mayor and local leaders in the Gompers library for a discussion of the multi-faceted reform process underway in LA. Also joining the tour and discussion were School Board President Monica Garcia, Superintendent Ramon Cortines, and LAUSD Board members Richard Vladovic, Yolie Flores Aguilar, Steve Zimmer, and Nury Martinez. A video report of the visit is on the [Partnership YouTube site](#).



Nine Partnership Students Selected for Hollywood Reporter Mentoring Program

Five sophomores from Roosevelt and four from Santee High Schools have been selected to participate in a yearlong, one-on-one mentoring program with some of the most powerful women in entertainment.

Joanna Cabrera, Stefany Espana, Sonia Gonzalez, and Nayeli Henriquez from Santee joined Roosevelt's Ernestina Garcia, Georgina Portillo, Aileen Renteria and Maira Solis on December 4 at the Beverly Hills Hotel where they and their Hollywood mentors attended the Hollywood Reporter/Women in Entertainment breakfast to launch the mentoring program and salute the "Power 100 Women in Entertainment." Actress Halle Berry spoke to the 600 women gathered about the pivotal role a mentor—in her case a fifth grade teacher—had played in her life. Also sharing their mentoring and life experiences that morning were actresses Hilary Swank and Eva Longoria. For the full Hollywood Reporter story on the program and participants press [here](#).

Roosevelt Film Makers Debut Their Work

Dozens of Roosevelt teachers, administrators and more than 200 students filled the auditorium last month as 14 of their fellow students debuted their 30-second films, "This is my School." Teacher Tom McCluskey led the students as they planned, shot and edited their brief films with Kodak HD cameras provided by the sponsors of the film competition, Kodak and RAT Media. After the showings, students cast votes for their favorites. Student Erik Arellano finished first with the most student votes followed by Gilbert Perez, Yaritza Soto and Nathan Gomez. Now the films will be reviewed by staff from Kodak and RatMedia to determine the \$1000.00 grand prize winner. The videos can be seen at the [Partnership YouTube site](#).

Partnership Creates Programs for Student Input

Applications are being sought from students at Partnership schools, grades 8-12, to participate in a the Youth Advisory Project (YAP), a group that will offer feedback on their schools, the Partnership, as well as tour local college campuses, meet civic and community leaders and help plan a day of service in March. The group will meet once a month on Saturdays from February through June. Applications are due January 29, 2010. For further information contact Ryan Smith at: ryan.smith@partnershipla.org. The Partnership also has launched a series of Student Town Halls for 6-12 graders, the first of which took place 12/16 at the Partnership offices. The 24 participating students shared the good and bad of their schools in an open and extended dialogue with Partnership CEO Marshall Tuck and Angela Bass, Superintendent of Instruction. The next Student Town Hall is scheduled for February.

Teacher-Parent Engagement at Hollenbeck

By Marissa Martinez, ELC, Hollenbeck Middle School
Hollenbeck recently completed a local design series of comprehensive workshops led by teachers for parents. It was adopted and named Maestros Ejerciendo Talleres Academicos, also known as M.E.T.A, which means teachers leading academic workshops. The goal of these workshops is to



empower parents with knowledge and information,

so they can play a more active role in student achievement.

In previous years, we have relied on organizations to provide the curriculum and facilitation of parent educational workshops. This year, with the support of a Partnership grant, we had the opportunity to use our in-house expertise to develop and design a comprehensive series of workshops customized to the needs of Hollenbeck parents. M.E.T.A parents participated in 4 workshops on English Strategies, Math strategies, Goal and Decision Making Strategies, and Learning English. The culmination was a Parent Academic Fair where parents presented the strategies they learned to the other participating parents. The workshops lead up to the Annual Parent Conference on December 5th, 2009 where each facilitator presented a synopsis workshop.

UCLA Launches New Grant Program for LA Teachers

UCLA Center X has announced the Teacher-Initiated Inquiry Project (TIIP) which will award grants *of up to \$30,000 each to 24* teams of teachers in Los Angeles County. TIIP seeks to promote teacher innovation and creativity by providing financial support to teachers as they identify, plan and implement their own professional development. Possible projects would include university course work, research, summer workshops, conferences and internships at museums or libraries. For further information go to the [Center X website](#).

Every Elementary Student Gets A Book for the Holidays

By Lovette Curry, Manager of Strategic Partnerships

As we approach the holiday season we have been fortunate to receive a great donation for our elementary students. Through the generous donation of the Molina Foundation and Jakks Pacific toy company we are receiving over 5,000 toys and books for our elementary students! Students will receive toys such as Dora the Explorer lunch boxes, Thomas the Train activity sets, and Harry Potter puzzles. We are thankful for this donation that encourages reading, increases literacy in our communities, and provides our younger students with entertaining toys. Thank you Molina and Jakks!

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