



District K News

Message from the Superintendent

Dr. Richard A. Vladovic

The State of California has recently released the results from the Spring 2002 administration of the Stanford 9 Achievement Test (SAT-9) and the related Academic Performance Index (API) scores. District K schools have outdone themselves yet again!

On the SAT-9, District K scores in Reading, Language and Math have consistently improved since 1998, when the state first implemented the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program requiring all California public schools to administer the SAT-9. The latest test results are truly extraordinary – on average, scores at District

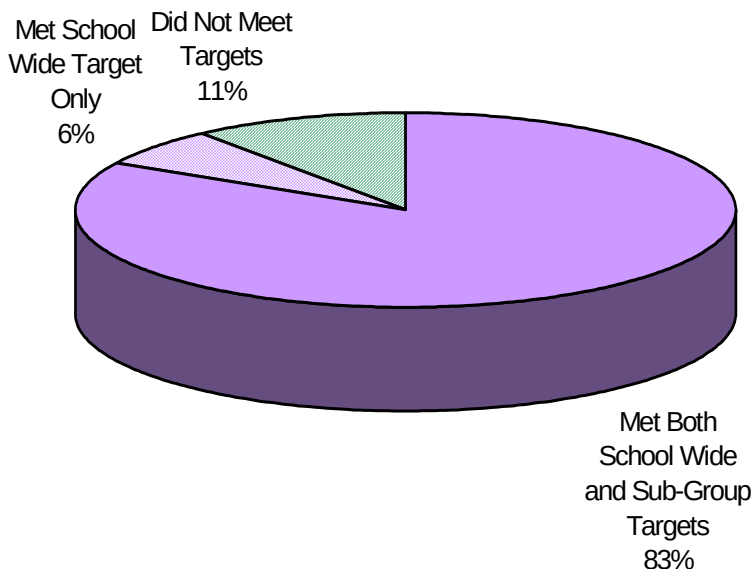
K schools improved at rates **191% greater in Reading, 227% greater in Language and an incredible 300% greater in Math** than the state!

Our elementary students are now testing at or above the national average in all three of these areas and our secondary students continue to make steady progress. A recent shift in state testing policy requires that standardized assessments place more emphasis on the California State Standards. This year the calculation of the API scores placed more weight on that portion of the SAT-9 which specifically tests knowledge and skill in the Standards. The process that District K

schools began almost two years ago to realign curriculums and lessons to teach to these Standards has already had a major impact: **89% percent of the schools that received API scores this month met or exceeded their targets!**

As great as our progress has been, we anticipate even greater successes in the coming year. Our teachers are working even harder to integrate the Standards into each lesson and our students are looking forward to demonstrating their skill in these areas during the next testing cycle. I am certain that District K will once again rise above the rest!

District K API Achievement for 2002



New High School for Aspiring Teachers

This September Harbor Teacher Prep Academy opened in District K. The Academy is the result of a collaboration between District K, CSU Dominguez Hills and Harbor College made possible through the joint efforts of LAUSD Board Member Mike Lansing, District K Superintendent Richard Vladovic and Harbor College President Linda Spink.

The Academy offers students the

opportunity to earn college credits through Harbor College while simultaneously completing their high school graduation requirements. Upon successful completion of the program, students will possess both a high school diploma and an Associate degree from Harbor College with priority admission rights to CSU Dominguez Hills.

Principal Mattie Adams is excited about the focus of the new academy

and the students enrolled, "They're a bunch of really great kids, and every one of them is committed to becoming a teacher in District K! The support that we've had from the school district, board, colleges and community has been outstanding, and everyone has very high expectations."

More information on the Harbor Teacher Prep Academy is available by calling (310) 834-3932.

Inside this issue:

New High School for Aspiring Teachers	2
156th Street: A California Distinguished School	3
New Magnet Planned at Taper Elementary	3
CPR-AReal Life Saver	4
Secondary Literacy Update	4
Math & Literacy Conference for Parents	5
Secondary Literacy Update	5
McTeacher Night	6
There's A New "K" in Town	6
Do You Want to Teach in LAUSD?	7
From the Operations Table	7
November/December Calendars & Important Dates	8



From the left: Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor, Dr. Mark Drummond; Harbor College President, Dr. Linda Spink; District K Director of School Services, Javier Sandoval; District K Director of Facilities, Roger Finstad; Harbor School of Education Dean, Dr. Billy Blair; District K Superintendent Dr. Richard Vladovic, LAUSD Board Member Mike Lansing.

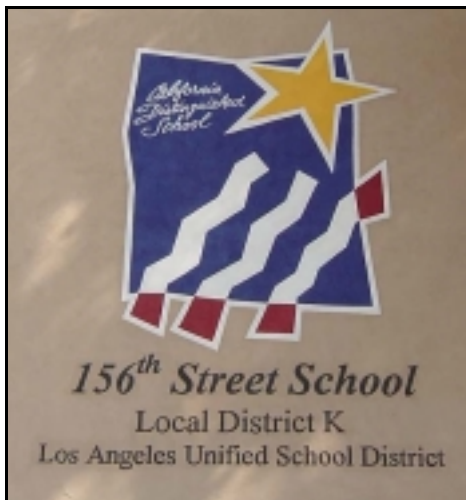
Principal Mattie Adams welcomes the class of 2006, their families, community members and local officials to the first day of class at Harbor Prep.



156th St. A California Distinguished School

Lou Mardesich, Assistant Principal

If you have driven on Van Ness Boulevard towards One Hundred Fifty Sixth Street lately you might have noticed a large mural representing something that appears to be honoring America. Although the students and staff are very patriotic, the large mural recognizes 156th Street being selected as a 2002 California Distinguished School. The beautiful 8 x 8 foot mural was completed on October 8th and has been a source of pride for the students. In addition, there is also a smaller version of the mural displayed at the entrance



The newly painted wall proudly proclaims the achievements of the students, faculty and staff

of the school. Los Angeles Unified School District K provided funding for the murals as a tribute to the dedicated school stakeholders that made the achievement possible.

To be selected for recognition, schools participate in a rigorously competitive selection process conducted by the Califor-

nia Department of Education (CDE) in a collaborative partnership with the county superintendents of schools (CCSESA). The application process provides a framework of research-based criteria that all schools can use to assess themselves and plan changes. The self-assessment requires the involvement of the entire school community in a common school improvement project. The criteria for school selection are designed to reflect the consensus of the education community regarding quality education by incorporating the major themes of state and national policies and research related to effective schools. The school staff also expressed gratitude to all of the local community members that take an active role in the continued academic achievement of all students at 156th Street.

New Magnet Planned at Taper Elementary

Hoby Cress, Principal

Taper Avenue Elementary just received news from the LAUSD Magnet Office that we will be the new site for an Elementary Technology Magnet School. This will operate as a separate school located on the Taper Campus and will service up to 150 students in grades 1 through 5.

The new Taper Technology Magnet will encourage new magnet students and teachers to enhance learning through technology. This includes com-

puters, educational television and radio, closed circuit t.v., video production, robotics, personal data assistants, Waterford and PLATO-standards-based software, Internet research, computer-assisted drafting, and computer networking as well as other established and developing technologies.

The 2002-03 school year will serve as a planning phase in which stakeholders will meet to hire staff, design curriculum, redesign classrooms and

office space and prepare for the first Taper Technology Magnet students in 2003-04. The planning phase will also involve hiring a magnet coordinator and office assistant to direct the process. All interested parties are encouraged to submit a letter of intent and resumes listing experience to Principal Hoby Cress. These may be sent via school mail or faxed to (310) 548-4485.

CPR—A Real Life Saver

Yolanda Lasmarias, Nursing Field Coordinator

Kind, tender, hard working, organized, friendly.

These are all words used to describe Esther Vojkovich. She and fellow nurse, Nancy Alaan-Pahang, work together at Willenburg Special Education Center. Being a nurse at a Special Education Center generally consists of more than bandaging scraped knees and curing tummy aches, but last summer Esther was called upon to perform a particularly extraordinary act.

One warm day in the middle of lunch recess, Esther received a Code Blue to the cafeteria: a child had choked on his lunch. When Esther arrived on the scene, he wasn't breathing and had no pulse. Esther and her sister, who was visiting from South Carolina, began administering CPR. By the time the paramedics arrived, the child was breathing again.

The student was hospitalized for two weeks, but is now back in school

and doing very well. Of her heroics Esther says, "It was all in the line of duty," but the child and his family feel it was much more than that.

Thank You

to Home Depot of Gardena for giving a 25% discount to Nursing Services for the purchase of roses, gardenias and lantanas to help beautify the front entrance of the Gardena Health Center.

Secondary Literacy Update

Marylin Williams, Secondary Literacy Coordinator

Secondary literacy, along with mathematics and professional development, is a main focus not only in District K, but throughout LAUSD. After much assessment, interviews and collaboration with stakeholders, the components of Secondary Literacy-The Developing Readers and Writers Course and content literacy have been implemented at each of the middle and senior high schools in District K.

The Developing Readers and Writers Course (DRWC), which targets students scoring in the 20th percentile and below on the SAT9 and who read 114 wpm or below on a fluency test, is designed to improve reading skills in a

double block period. The English teachers receive an intensive five-day training in the state adopted *Language!* program which was selected because of its success in other school districts with characteristics similar to LAUSD.

Cadres have been formed at each of the middle and senior high schools to increase literacy across the curriculum. The cadres consist of at least four teachers from the core content areas of English/Language Arts, science, mathematics and social studies. The cadres, along with the administrators and faculty, work together to "help all students do rigorous work and meet or exceed high standards in each content

area. The goal is to help students develop deep content knowledge as they learn to read, write, think and solve problems as historians, poets, mathematicians, etc." The secondary schools in District K are excited about the new programs, strategies and collaboration amongst all stakeholders to improve student achievement.



Math and Literacy Conference for Parents

Mirta Mc Kay, Administrator of Instructional Support

Dr. Vladovic and District K will hold the first of two free parent conferences on Saturday, November 16, from 8:00 to 2:00 at Carnegie Middle School. All parents and others who care for children are invited and encouraged to attend.

The day will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:30. The Opening Ceremony begins promptly at 8:15 and will feature remarks by District K Superintendent Richard Vladovic. At 9:00, the first workshop session will begin, followed by the second at 10:30. Schools are eligible to receive prizes based on the number of parents who sign in prior to 9:15. Participants who arrive after that time will still be allowed to participate, but their attendance will not be credited to the school for prizes.

More than 15 workshops will be

offered in the morning sessions, and participants are free to choose the two that fit their needs and interests. Simultaneous translation services are available for non-English speakers.

An additional afternoon session offering several workshops of interest to parents of children receiving special education services will also be offered.

Workshops are designed to help parents interact with their children's education more effectively. Topics include: *Help for Homework Headaches; Discipline Doesn't Mean Punishment; Writing in the Classroom; Building Good Character for Academic Success; Free Community Resources to Help Your Child Achieve; Math is Everywhere—Real World Math Activities for Your Elementary School Child; and Planning for College.* The District K Administrators of Instruction and Direc-

tors of School Services will also be available to answer questions throughout the day.

After the workshop sessions have concluded, there will be a catered lunch. The Conference will conclude with student performers presenting their culminating activities during a one hour demonstration of the California Arts Standards. Door prizes will be given out immediately following the performances.

The entire conference is provided by District K as a free service to parents, but pre-registration is strongly recommended due to limited space. Last year's conferences were very popular and many workshops were filled to capacity. Register today with your local District K school and make sure you don't get left out!

New DELTA Center Opens

Dona Stevens, Professional Development Coordinator

Design for Excellence Linking Teaching and Achievement (DELTA) is a comprehensive professional development and support system for aspiring, beginning, and experienced teachers and administrators. Working in collaboration with California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP), a variety of professional

development opportunities are offered Monday through Saturday. The first District K DELTA Professional Development Center (PDC) is located in San Pedro on the campus of Taper Elementary School.

We are very pleased to announce the opening of a second DELTA PDC on the campus of Peary Middle School in Gardena. Although the PDC has

been open for only a few months, it is already in constant use. Like its older counterpart in San Pedro, the PDC is comprised of a double bungalow which houses a full-sized classroom and a state of the art technology lab.

Teachers and administrators are invited to find out more about DELTA by logging on to our web site at <http://delta.lausd.k12.ca.us>.



McTeacher Night

Several teachers in District K schools will trade their gold stars for the golden arches during a fundraiser at local McDonald's restaurants. Teachers will take food orders and serve students for a few hours at various local McDonald's restaurants with 20% of all sales going directly to the schools. "The kids really enjoy it, and it's a lot of fun for the

teachers too," says Esther Kim, Principal of 156th Street school in Gardena. "This will be the 7th year that I've participated – it's a fun way for families and teachers to meet in a casual, non-school setting." Find out if your school is holding a McTeacher Night by contacting the school's office.

There's a New "K" in Town

Aaron Fairleywine, Business Manager

There's a new "K" in town. On September 24, 2002 District K was formally introduced to Measure K, LAUSD's Bond Issue. Banning High School hosted a meeting of representatives from all the schools in District K. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to the teams that are charged with distributing information on the School Bond Issue, Measure K. Dr. Richard Vladovic made a presentation and led the question and answer session. Lydia Espinoza from LAUSD Community Outreach was present to provide information and answer questions.

The bond issue would generate a total of \$3.35 Billion dollars. These funds would be used for new neighborhood schools (\$2.58 billion), repair of aging and deteriorating classrooms (\$526 million), upgrading safety and technology (\$66 million), library books and

new school and improving library technology (\$38 million), planning of new schools, charter schools, early childhood programs (\$140 million).

District K would receive 3, 580 new student seats during the next six years. We would receive one new elementary school, six classroom additions and one playground expansion. The increased space will allow many bused students to return to their neighborhood schools, reduce overcrowding and improve libraries.

LAUSD has put in place extraordinarily strict accountability requirements. These requirements will ensure that the money is spent as promised and ONLY to build, equip, repair schools and on instructional materials. An Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee will closely monitor ALL of the projects. Annual independent performance and fiscal audits will be released to the



Remember
to Vote on
Nov. 5

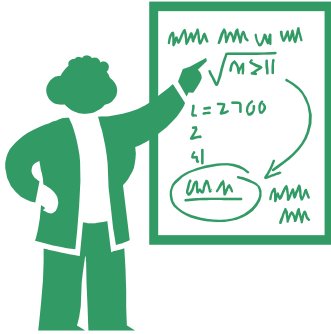
public.

The estimated cost to property owners for Measure K will be no more than \$5 a month per \$100,000 of assessed – not market-property value.

District K is very fortunate to have outstanding teams in each of our schools to coordinate the distribution of the Measure K information. Thank you for all of your help!

Do You Want to Become an LAUSD Teacher?

Vicki Hioureas



If you are a Para-educator (all employees in bargaining

Units B and F) and are interested in becoming a teacher, then make sure you attend the Career Ladder Forum on

Saturday, December 7th from 9 am - 11:30 am. The Forums are held at three convenient locations: Bravo Medical Magnet High School in the downtown area; Towne Avenue Elementary in Carson; and at Fulton Middle School in Van Nuys.

Learn about the support services the Career Ladder offers, including tuition reimbursement, scholarship opportunities, educational advisement and hiring

assistance. There are sessions in Special Education Career Pathways, Behavior Management, Credential Options, Getting Your Bachelor's Degree and Completing Performance Assessments.

For more information visit our website at www.TeachInLa.com click on the "Career Ladder" icon then click on "Join the Career Ladder" or call 213-241-4571.

From the Operations Table

Hector DuBon, Operations Coordinator

The beginning of the traditional school year brought with it the specter of insufficient seats and space for students at many of our middle and senior high schools. This generated many calls from parents upset that their children were being bussed to other

schools. This dark cloud that began to hang over the affected schools came with a silver lining. As complaints were being expressed by callers, the opportunity arose to explain to them that the situation we found ourselves in was due to a lack of space and schools. I was

able to inform parents that the reason Measure K was placed on the November ballot, was to address these types of issues, so that students would be able to attend their neighborhood schools instead of being placed on busses and sent to other schools.

Great News from Gardena

C. Sampson, Gardena High School

A scrimmage Academic Decathlon Super Quiz was held at Bravo HS on Saturday October 5. With 22 high schools participating, the Gardena

team tied for first place and took second place in the written exam. More than half of participating Gardena team members had perfect scores!!

The following Gardena students attended the HIPPA Acadeca Scrimmage:

Luisa Bravo	Ebony Towner
Zoraida Echeverria*	Hoang Tran*
Jacqueline Franco*	Alma Vargas*
Anthony Graham	Benajah Weis*
Jacqueline Muñoz	*perfect score
Linh Thuy Nguyen*	
Ruben Ordaz	



DR. RICHARD A.
VLADOVIC,
SUPERINTENDENT

District K Office
1208 Magnolia
Gardena, CA 90247

Phone: 310.354.3400
Fax: 310.532.4674

www.lausd.net/district_k

District K November Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5 	6 	7	8	9
10 	11 	12	13 First Day of Ramadan	14	15	16
17 Veterans' Day	18 Holiday	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29 	30
				Holiday Thanksgiving	Holiday	First Day of Hanukkah

Knowledge is the Key

District K December Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6 	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Bodhi Day	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 3 Track A, B End	21
22	23 	24 District Shut Down	25 	26 District Shut Down	27 District Shut Down	28
29	30 District Shut Down	31 	1 	2 Classes Begin 3 Track B, C	3 Single/4 Track Winter Recess (Last Day 4 Track)	4
		District Shut Down New Year's Eve	A Happy New Year! Holiday			

Important Dates

NOVEMBER



12th - CEAC/ELAC Meeting
16th - Parent Conference
20th - Principals' Meeting
26th - AP Meeting
27th - Unassigned Day

DECEMBER



10th - CEAC/ELAC Meeting

Get the Word Out!

Submit stories, articles or photos for inclusion in the next issue of District K News by the 10th of each month. All photos must be accompanied by signed releases. Articles may be edited for content or length. Photos may not be used if not print quality. Articles and/or photos may be publicly available through the District K Internet site: www.lausd.net/district_k

Editor: Diane Gribschaw
dgribsch@lausd.k12.ca.us