

## UPDATE

Week of April 21, 2008

### CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The phrase “Caught in the Middle” may mean different things to different people. To many of the District’s experienced middle school administrators and teachers, it defines education reform efforts in the 1990’s to better provide instructional services to grades 6-8 students. To California politicians and residents, it describes Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** who wanted to reform education throughout the state until crucial budget decisions had to be made and education was thrown under the proverbial school bus.

To AALA, “Caught in the Middle” generally reflects the current status of all principals and their administrative teams throughout the District. While the District’s senior staff is reviewing potential budget cuts behind closed doors, principals have been left to fend for themselves in discussing the budget uncertainty with their communities. The flow of information from senior staff to Local District Superintendents may be effective; however, principals do not have any defined information. And, as usual, they are on the firing line when questions are asked about next year’s school program.

Principals need and should have a question and answer sheet that will allow them to respond to questions from their constituent groups in a uniformly consistent manner. In AALA’s continuing effort to be helpful, we suggest the following questions be answered:

- Why didn’t the Superintendent initiate a parcel tax to counteract any need to increase class size and any potential loss of critical support personnel?
- Will school administrators need to develop two or more matrices or master schedules to accommodate different class size levels?
- Will additional counseling time be allocated to secondary schools because of late staffing changes directly attributed to less than timely budget cutting?
- What assertive measures have senior staff initiated to secure a greater level of financial support than is currently anticipated?
- What are the guidelines for community donations to underwrite school needs that may be caused by reduction in force or other program losses?
- What is the District’s donation policy relative to equity across the District?
- What are the potential budget reductions that could impact schools?
- What attempts are being made to make the current funding formulas more flexible to meet specific school needs?
- Will the District prepare an easily read budget document for parents, staff, and community members?
- When will the District establish a direct, periodic, and timely line of communication with all middle managers?

**AAALA is requesting that the Superintendent establish direct communication with principals and provide them with all the information needed sooner rather than later.** AALA respectfully asks the Superintendent and senior staff the following:

- Who is running the show? When will we see an up-to-date organization chart so that responsibilities are clearly defined?
- Why has the District added senior staff positions in a year when a potential \$460 million or more needs to be cut?
- What has happened to the High Priority Schools initiative? (It appears that the time and money spent on partnership schools, some of which are also High Priority Schools, as well as the Innovation Division and Accountability Division could have been better spent.)

**AAALA members do not have the luxury of a Beaudry office with adequate administrative assistance. They must cope with matriculation, testing, graduation, master schedules, matrices, reduction in force and any other chaos emanating from Beaudry. Perhaps Dr. “Vacant’s” more capable replacement, Senior Deputy Superintendent Ray Cortines, will remind everyone about the role and responsibilities performed by principals and their administrative teams on a daily basis and begin to eliminate the “add-on” programs and divisions as he deals with the reduction in force of senior staff. AALA hopes that Mr. Cortines can play the role of our Sir Galahad and find the Holy Grail of common sense in organizational management.**

## RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Sandi Barrett	Sunday, June 8, 2008 2:00 p.m.	Flamingo Banquet Hall 7179 Foothill Blvd. Tujunga	Paula Weissman 818.787.3026
Dolores Buettgenbach	Saturday, June 28, 2008 5:30 p.m.	Madeo's Restaurant DoubleTree Hotel 2800 Villa Cabrillo Marina San Pedro	Miryam Ocampo 310.835.3157
Beverly Bushner	Thursday, May 29, 2008 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.	The Radisson Hotel 9777 Topanga Blvd. Chatsworth	Nydia Velez- Therminy 818.678.3421
Joseph Caldera	Friday, June 13, 2008 6:00 p.m.	Luminarias 3500 W. Ramona blvd. Monterey Park	Jose Huerta 323.266.7412
Betty Coleman	Saturday, May 31, 2008 12:00 Noon	Shanghai Red's 13813 Fiji Way Marina Del Rey	Linda Schneider 310.392.3041

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**Minimum Qualifications:** Candidates are responsible for making sure all the District requirements for administrative positions have been met. AALA is not responsible for errors in publication.

**NOTE:** Please do not contact AALA for information regarding administrative positions. Use the listed contact phone number, or contact LAUSD Human Resources Division at 213.241.6886 or via e-mail at [http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin\\_vacancies](http://certificated.lausd.k12.ca.us/admin_vacancies).

**PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY**

**Brentwood Science Magnet (3) MST 41**, 740 Gretna Green Way, Los Angeles, CA 90049  
 Brentwood is an E Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Pam Sasada**, Director, School Support Services, at 310.253.7100. **Filing deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2008.**

**Chapman School (8) MST 40**, 1947 Marine Avenue, Gardena, CA 90249  
 Chapman is an E basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Hector DuBon**, Director, School Services, at 310.354.3400. **Filing deadline is Friday, May 9, 2008.**

**15<sup>th</sup> Street School (8) MST 41**, 1527 South Mesa Street, San Pedro, CA 90731  
 15<sup>th</sup> Street is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Michael Romero**, Director, School Services, at 310.354.3400. **Filing deadline is Monday, May 5, 2008.**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST (EIS)**

**Eshelman Avenue School (8) MST 38**, 25902 Eshelman Avenue, Lomita, CA 90717  
 Eshelman is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Michael Romero**, Director, School Services, at 310.354.3400. **Filing deadline is 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2008.**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, SECONDARY**

**West Adams Prep High School (7) MST 40**, 1500 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006  
 West Adams is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Adrianna McNally**, Director, School Services, at 323.242.1314. **Filing deadline is Friday, May 2, 2008.**

**Marina Del Rey Middle School (3) MST 39**, 12500 Braddock Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90066  
 Marina Del Rey is a B Basis school. For information and application procedures contact **Brenda Steppes**, Director, Secondary School Services, at 310.253.7156. **Filing deadline is Friday, May 2, 2008.**

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE**

Position	Location	Deadline	Contact
Principal, Elementary	Denker Avenue School	05/02/08	310.354.3400
Asst. Prin., EIS	Hawaiian Avenue School	05/02/08	310.354.3400

*Ed. Note – In the coming weeks, thanks to Steve Weingarten, UPDATE will be profiling Community Adult Schools and the great job they do providing educational services to the community. This is the first.*

## KEEPING PACE WITH A WORKING CLASS COMMUNITY'S CHANGING NEEDS

At any given moment, about 8,000 students are enrolled at the Belmont Education and Career Center's main campus and 71 offsite locations, from Skid Row missions and Chinatown retirement homes to Salvadoran service centers and Koreatown convalescent hospitals.

"The challenge for us," said Principal **Roger Miller**, "is to broaden access for our students."

The great majority of Belmont's adult students are immigrants and the working poor. Only 2 percent of local households earn more than \$50,000 yearly.

"Adult Education adds value to their lives," said Assistant Principal **Ben Avila**, "and everyone finds their own way to use it later."

More than 70 percent of Belmont's offerings are English as a Second Language classes.

Avila said Belmont constantly adjusts the classes it offers to meet the changing community's needs. As the population ages, for example, the school has expanded its offerings for seniors through 22 sites, including several local retirement homes. Computer literacy, for example, is popular at Chinatown's Angelus Plaza and at the Mary Lind Foundation, where more than 50 graduates complete the program every trimester.

Parent education is also growing. One of the big classes, pumped up by recommendations from school staff, is "Helping Your Child Succeed in School." Although court-approved parenting classes are well attended, grand-parenting classes remain an untapped resource, Avila said.

Vocational courses are another cornerstone of adult education. **Margaret Robinson** teaches cosmetology from 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday at the Mid-City campus. One of the students won a bronze medal at the national Skills USA competition in June 2007. This year, four students earned gold medals at the regional competition and will move on to the state level in Fresno in April.

The school is also authorized to offer GED courses to secondary students, basic elementary skills (below 8th grade), citizenship, senior programs, disabled adults and home economics.

The Belmont faculty includes 29 Asian teachers, and the school is an especially strong presence in Koreatown, offering classes through the Korean American Education Center and Bimini campus.

The school is also well-known on Skid Row – referred to euphemistically as the "Mission District" – with classes at the Weingart Center, the Salvation Army, and the Union Rescue, Los Angeles and Midnight missions.

AAALA salutes Principal Roger Miller and Assistant Principals Ben Avila, **Linda Campbell-Wise**, **Marguerite Siegel** and **Andrea Rodriguez** for jobs well done.

Associated Administrators of Los Angeles



April 22, 2008

Mr. David L. Brewer III  
Superintendent  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Brewer:

On behalf of AALA and with the full cooperation and acknowledgement of UTLA, we request an urgent meeting with you and appropriate District staff to share our mutual concerns about the implementation of Proposition 39.

This District is already struggling to deal with the aftermath of disastrous payroll issues, the continuing negative public perception of our schools, and, of course, the new and potentially devastating prospect of fiscal meltdown. Despite all of these obstacles to success, our dedicated school employees continue to work hard every day to provide the best possible education for all students, pre-K to adult.

We believe that our organizations can give very constructive and valuable suggestions to alleviate the unrest that is fomenting across the District as a result of this haphazard implementation of Proposition 39.

We stand ready to meet with you and your staff, and look forward to a timely response to this joint request.

Sincerely,

Mike O'Sullivan  
President  
AALA

A. J. Duffy  
President  
UTLA

cc: Ramon Cortines  
Jim Morris

(PLEASE SEE OTHER SIDE)



ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATORS OF LOS ANGELES

SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL  
Gold Room  
506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles



DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

TIME: 5:30 p.m. – SOCIAL HOUR  
6:30 p.m. – DINNER  
7:30 p.m. – PRESENTATION OF AWARDS  
• Scholarship Awards  
• Community Volunteer Awards

COST: \$60.00 per person

PARKING: \$20 Valet – Hotel  
\$6 Self-Parking – Pershing Square (with validation)

----- tear-off -----

SCHOLARSHIP/COMMUNITY AWARDS BANQUET

Return tear-off with check to: AALA, 1910 Sunset Blvd., Suite 510, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Reservation Deadline: Thursday, May 15, 2008

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**SAVE THE DATES**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2008** – Project **TEAM HEAL** – Helping Enrich Athletes Lives – "Fourth Annual Afternoon of Jazz," from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

**SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008** – Franklin High School's Third Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. It will be held at the Upland Hills Country Club at 1:30 p.m. For more information call **Jorge Garcia** at 323.550.2075 or e-mail [jgarcia@lausd.net](mailto:jgarcia@lausd.net).

**CAL STATE, NORTHRIDGE TIER II FOR LAUSD**

In the fall, we will offer one class in the Valley and one for the Eastside. It is a one-semester, 12 unit program, with the classes held face-to-face and on-line. They are open to anyone in an administrative position. For information contact Dr. **Debbie Leidner** at 818.677.2528.

**Tier II Orientation Dates**

<b>District</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
LAUSD District 1	5/12/08 – 4:00 p.m.	Devonshire
LAUSD District 2	5/5/08 – 4:00 p.m.	Sharp Ave
LAUSD District 5 & Central	5/6/08 – 5:00 p.m.	District 5 – Soto Street

**ANNUAL FERIA del LIBRO**

The 6th annual Feria del Libro, A Family Book Fair, will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles City Hall and surrounding streets. The community-wide event is produced through a unique partnership of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the City of Los Angeles, Families in Schools and many other nonprofit organizations. The partnership works to promote reading as an important activity in every home in our community.

One of the highlights of the event is the Million Word Challenge. Students are recognized for being Million Word Challenge winners from their schools, and each winner receives a \$50 gift card to purchase books at the fair. Principals are encouraged to have their students participate in the word challenge. Each school will select one student per track to receive the gift card. The winners will be announced at the end of May and will be recognized by their schools. For more information on the Million Word Challenge go to the [www.laopinion.com/millondepalabras](http://www.laopinion.com/millondepalabras).

If you wish to purchase bookmarks (3 cents each), fliers (4 cents each), or posters (16 cents each), you may call Jefferson High School print shop (323.232.2261) and request the above mentioned items.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DR. RUBY TYSON** - Former Assistant Principal, Adult Counseling Services, at Friedman OCC and Garfield CAS. He retired on June 25, 1987, and passed away on April 11, 2008. He was a Nationally Certified Psychologist and a Forensic Diplomat. He dedicated his time in helping others to develop their inner strength. He volunteered as an Ombudsman, assisting the elderly with maintaining a quality life. Donations may be made in his name to American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) 3505 E. Frontage Road, Suite 315, Tampa, FL 33607.

**QUENTIN BROWN** – Former Principal of Liberty Boulevard and Carson schools. He retired in 1979 and passed away on January 26, 2008. His wife, Ruth, lives at 1180 N. Bradford Avenue, #112, Placentia, CA 92807.

## WEALTH CONCEPTS SEMINAR

Come and learn about the latest strategies that could significantly change your life from the Circle of Wealth Team: Estate Planner, Home Equity Manager, CPA, Financial Strategist, and Insurance Specialist. All AALA members are invited for dessert and discussion on **Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., at AALA 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**. Wealth Concepts, Inc sponsors the event. All guests will receive their nationally known Personal Wealth Index questionnaire, which looks at the 4 key areas of a rich life: Family and Friends, Health and Well-being, Money and Finances, and Meaning and Purpose. Included as a bonus – "*20 Questions You Should Ask Your Advisor and Ten Key Retirement Mistakes and What You Can Do About Them.*"

**RSVP to** 310.524.9588 or e-mail [antione@wealthconceptsonline.com](mailto:antione@wealthconceptsonline.com). *This is not a solicitation, nor will any specific investment products be solicited or discussed in detail at this event.*

## ACSA REGION XVI AWARDS BANQUET

The Association of California Administrators (ACSA), Region XVI, Annual Administrator of the Year Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2008, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., at Casa Italiana, 1051 N. Broadway, Los Angeles. This year's theme is "**Celebrate the Hero Within.**" The cost is \$45 in advance. For more information contact **Lucy Hunt** at 213.241.6500.

"It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber."

-- Unknown