



# WESTSIDE STORIES

*The latest news and updates from Local District West*



IN THIS ISSUE

**MEET OUR COMMUNITY OF  
SCHOOLS LEADERS**

**REOPENING OF SCHOOLS  
CAREER READINESS  
INITIATIVE**

**LD WEST SPOTLIGHTS  
SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT  
SHARE OUTS**

**PARENT RESOURCES  
KINDER CORNER**

**ENGAGING STUDENT  
THROUGH BOOK CREATOR  
UPCOMING EVENTS**



**We want to hear  
from you!**

**[Click here to  
submit your  
questions or  
suggestions](#)**



Local District West Principals and Staff worked tirelessly to prepare and welcome students back to in-person instruction. We are excited to see you back and can't wait to see more of you on our school sites.

Now that students are returning to the classroom, we will be transitioning food service back to a school-based effort focused on children. Students who return for in-person instruction will be provided multiple meals at school while students who continue with online learning from home can still pick up meals from their school site. This will make certain every child can continue to receive meals from their local school.

Visit Safe Steps for Safe Schools for information on how to obtain a daily pass, schedule a COVID-19 test, and much more as this is an important tool to reopening schools in the safest way possible.

Click on image above to view our Reopening Celebrations

**FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



# COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATOR SPOTLIGHT

## JENNIFER THEODORE-SULLIVAN

### Community of Schools Administrator Westchester Community of Schools



Westchester is near and dear to me as I grew up here attending Kentwood Elementary, Wright Middle School, and Westchester High School. My mother served as a teacher for 47 years within the Los Angeles Unified School District. It was her hard work and dedication that inspired me to go into the profession of education. I truly believe that all students can learn if we are committed to and have the mindset that each student deserves and receives an equitable education.

I began my career in education 30 years ago teaching at Hyde Park Elementary. I also served as the SB 1965 Outreach Consultant, Title 1/Bilingual Coordinator at Westminster Elementary, Assistant Principal at Broadway Elementary, and served 18 years as the Principal of Paseo del Rey Natural Science Magnet. Building partnerships to invest and support our schools is extremely important. I am an active member of the LAX Chamber of Commerce. I serve on the Coastal Education Foundation and collaborate with Dr. Darin Earley, the Director of the LMU Family of Schools.

I believe that together, through collaboration, we can continue to improve the academic achievement and social-emotional learning for all of our diverse students. I am honored to serve as the CommUNITY of Schools Administrator for Local District West's Westchester schools.

Cowan ES  
Katherine Johnson STEM  
Kentwood EEC  
Kentwood ES  
Loyola Village  
Open Charter ES  
Paseo del Rey ES  
Playa Vista ES  
Westchester Enriched Sciences  
Magnets - Health/Sports  
Medicine Magnet  
Westport Heights ES  
Windsor Hills ES  
Wright MS

#### **What is the best part of your job?**

The best part of my job as the Westchester CommUNITY of School Administrator is collaborating with amazing principals to build their capacity as leaders and working for our young scholars.

#### **What is your favorite movie?**

At this time my favorite movie is Hidden Figures.

#### **What is your favorite food?**

My favorite food is chips, salsa, and guacamole.

#### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Definitely working in a pandemic has been challenging as I have had to visit classrooms and engage with school leaders, teachers, families, and the community through virtual communication. The first week of return to school has been a highlight as I have been able to finally interact directly with the Westchester CommUNITY of Schools in person. The positive energy and smooth transition have brought tears of joy and excitement!

**What was the first concert you attended?** Prince was the first concert that I attended and was by far the most entertaining.

# CAREER-READINESS INITIATIVE AT CRENSHAW STEMM MAGNET HS

## Los Angeles Unified and Junior Achievement launch first of its kind program in California



Click on image to hear about 3DE from  
Dr. Adaina Brown  
Local District West Superintendent

Superintendent Austin Beutner today announced a partnership between Los Angeles Unified and Junior Achievement of SoCal to launch a new approach to career education supported by 3DE (Three Dimensional Education) this coming school year at Crenshaw High STEMM Magnet. Students will engage with business professionals and work on real world case studies to help them prepare for 21st century careers.

Beginning in their freshman year, students in the Crenshaw program participate in “case challenges” centered around businesses like Delta Airlines and NBCUniversal. As seniors, the students will have the opportunity for semester-long internships to help them gain experience in the workplace.

“This effort combines a collaborative team of teachers with real world experiences students will study and mentorship from experienced business professionals,” Superintendent Beutner said. “We’ve seen great results from this approach in other parts of the country. I know the team at Crenshaw will create something truly special for students.”

[Click here to read more on the announcement.](#)





## Congratulations LACES and STEM Bernstein!

Congratulations to the LACES and Bernstein HS STEM Academy communities for receiving the 2021 California Distinguished School Award. We are proud to acknowledge your exemplary achievements, leadership, instruction, dedication, and outstanding results. You continue to make us proud!

Each school will be awarded \$2500 to display a banner or mural to celebrate the recognition.



Thank you to our friends @DoorDash for the \$25,000 donation through their Community Credits program, which provides incentives to our students in @LAUSD\_LDWest so they can finish the school year strong. 1,000 students will receive \$25.00 gift cards for good attendance and outstanding academic achievement. Local District West Superintendent Dr. Adaina Brown said, "This is just one more effort to provide resources to our families that brings community partnerships directly to our hardest hit communities and for that, we thank you Door Dash!" #SupportLocal

## Congratulations West Hollywood and Braddock Drive ES

Congratulations to City Terrace Elementary in LAUSD Local District East and West Hollywood Elementary School in LAUSD Local District West, which won first place in the state Odyssey of the Mind problem-solving competition. Together with the team from Braddock Drive Elementary and Gifted Magnet, which won third place, the students will now vie for the international title. Coached by Lai Lao, the City Terrace is made up of students Mau Castro, Zee Castro, Yanna Kwong, Ava Rogers, Lea Rogers and Gaizka Rodriguez.

At West Hollywood, Mora Stephens coaches students Aiden An, Daniel Changpradith, Kyrie Paul, Henry Stuart, Etta Viertel and Grace Ward.

Ryan Tinus coaches the Braddock Drive team of Amelie Biehn, Nia O'Connor, Lucas Takao Hahn, Jefferson Tinus, Austin Tran, Reimer Tran and Jasmine Walia.

[Watch the state awards presentation here](#)



## LD West Systems of Support Advisors Share Outs



Click on images for videos

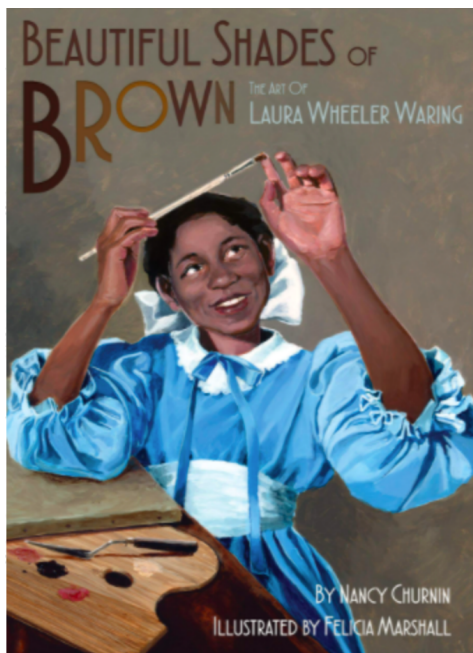
**Discuss why it is important to show thanks to someone?**

**What's an interesting way you can show appreciation to someone?**

**What are some things you're thankful for today....how will you show thanks for that?**

---

## STORY TIME: LEARN ABOUT LAURA WHEELER WARING featured in HOT TOPICS! Your HEET News



HEET Literacy Adviser Menya Cole and professional artist and art teacher, Heidi Smith, have collaborated to develop a lesson on the life and work of Laura Wheeler Waring. Wheeler Waring painted stunning portraits that highlighted the beautiful brown skin of her subjects. A highly sought after artist, she painted the portraits of Marian Anderson, W.E.B. DuBois and several others. This lesson introduces students to Wheeler Waring and gives them the opportunity to create their own self-portraits to celebrate their beautiful brown skin.

Click [here](#) for an engaging lesson that can be completed at school or at home!

# Parent and Community Resources and Reminders

*Recipe of the Month*

## GREEN SMOOTHIE

### SPINACH SMOOTHIE



### KALE SMOOTHIE



### COLLARD GREENS SMOOTHIE



### GRAPES SMOOTHIE



### CELERY SMOOTHIE



## Self-Care Practices

Tips and ideas for daily wellness



- Go outside
- Be active/move your body (stretching, yoga, playing with kids, dancing, go for a walk)
- Practice gratitude (What went well today?)
- Spend time with pets
- Focus on what kind of self-care is realistic now, *not 6 months ago*
- Admire art
- Find things that make you laugh
- Use positive self-talk (I am doing the best I can!)
- Take time for yourself
- Be realistic
- Stay hydrated
- Limit news and social media
- Maintain emotional connections & support
- Ask for help when needed
- Explore meditation and mindfulness practices
- Schedule in your self-care



Click on image for Venice Community of Schools PSW Newsletter



**KINDER CORNER**  
Developing  
Gross Motor Skills

Desarrollando  
habilidades motoras gruesas

Making tunnels, jumping from box to box, and building a fort are all great ways to have fun...and develop gross motor skills.

### Keep those boxes!



Hacer túneles, saltar de caja en caja y construir un fuerte son excelentes formas de divertirse ... y desarrollar habilidades motoras gruesas.

Click here

Haga clic aquí



# Engaging Students Through Book Creator

**Danielle Vinas, Adviser, HEET Community of Schools/Local District West**



Have you ever wanted to become a published author? Have you ever wanted to share your creations with the world? Some of our talented students and educators have done just that by becoming published authors with Book Creator! Local District West and LAUSD educators have been using Book Creator to support student learning and engagement during the pandemic and through our transition back to in-person instruction.

Book Creator is a digital tool that turns students into authors by creating and publishing one-of-a-kind books with their friends. The web tool has tons of accessibility features such as video and audio

recording, assistive drawing features, and media embedding. Students love it because they can publish their independent stories, and teachers love how students engage with the content through choice while supporting student identity. Ms. Maria Salazar, World Languages Teacher at Hamilton Senior High explains “It’s fun, they work in groups with their classmates, they love to present their work to the class, they get creative, all while speaking in the target language.”

Mr. Scott Petri’s 10th grade World History Students said that “using Book Creator is a perfect starting point for an inquiry lesson” and his students created 45 children’s books about individual women like Virginal Hall, one of the notorious spies who served during World War II. He shared that the project was one of the highest student engagement activities during remote learning and he is excited about continued use in the next school year.

Other projects that have been shared in the Book Creator Community of Practice Group include second and third-grade persuasive books on which season is best, where students wrote and shared their positions in Mandarin while developing digital literacy skills. Ms. Lisowski at Venice High School culminated her unit on myths and legends by having students create and publish their own stories to showcase their learning (Volume 1, Volume 2, Earth Day Poems), and teachers at Audubon Middle School collaborated on a student showcase for Open House.

The tool allowed Beth Dror’s 4th and 5th graders to “take ownership of the process and opportunity to create an authentic digital book” in Writing Workshop. “Their pride and sense of accomplishment in the final products were beyond my expectations and a joy to behold,” shared Beth, speaking of her class’ Publishing Party.

Want to see more books by students and teachers across LAUSD? Check out this link to explore some more of our community’s excellent work! For more information and to set up your premium account, teachers should visit [BookCreator.com](https://BookCreator.com) and sign in with their LAUSD SSO. Students should ask their teacher to set up an account and share their library code to get started.

# Bret Harte MS Students are Directing Change Film Contest Winners

By Menya Cole, Teacher Adviser - Elementary Literacy, HEET  
Community of Schools/Local District West

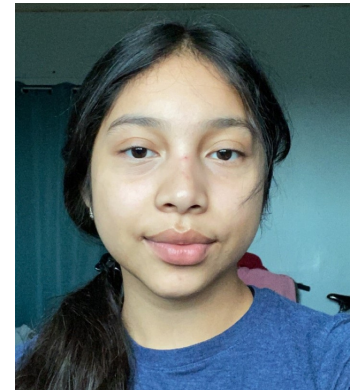
Bret Harte Prep Middle School is turning up the H.E.E.T! Students Fatima Benegas and Joshua Bravo were awarded first place in the Directing Change Program and Film Contest. The Directing Change Program and Film Contest encourages youth throughout California to learn about the topics of suicide prevention and mental health through filmmaking. Supported by their advisor and Harte Prep PSW, Lindsay Varis, filmmakers Benegas and Bravo submitted a short animated film titled "I'm Here for You" in the Walk in Our Shoes - What is Mental Health category. Their film sheds light on the mental health challenges faced by young people today and the ways in which peers can support each other.

When asked about the message and purpose of the film, Bravo says, "The message I wanted people to get was that they can trust their friends to speak out about any problems they have. (We wanted) to give them the courage to speak out." Both Bravo and Benegas expressed the importance of their message, noting that suicide and mental health are societal problems faced by people of all ages. Ms. Varis adds, "This is such an important message. We talked a lot about the stigma around mental health and how hard it can be to let people know you're going through a hard time. You never know what's going on just on the surface. It's important to reach out and let someone know it's okay to not be okay. They're not alone, help is available."

As you could imagine, capturing such a powerful message into a short film could pose a challenge. Ms. Varis met with the students over the course of a few months to dive deep into content about mental health awareness prior to the filmmaking process. During the planning process, the students created the storyline, color scheme and other exciting details. Although the students were the driving force behind the finished product, Benegas was sure to acknowledge that "Ms. Varis was a major help... It was a great class and I enjoyed waking up and coming every week!"

Benegas, Bravo and Ms. Varis are celebrating a much deserved win. They were all so excited and eager to share the news with family, friends, and Principal Dr. Sonia Leffall. In the midst of celebrating their win, Benegas and Bravo have some words of advice for those of us who are stepping up to help a loved one with mental health challenges. Benegas reminds us to lend a listening ear and calmly ask the person if they feel comfortable sharing. Bravo also urges us to tell our loved ones, "I know it may be tough to speak out, but I'm here for you. No matter what and whatever it is, I will be here for you."

**Congratulations to Fatima, Joshua, Ms. Varis and the Bret Harte Prep Middle School family!**



Fatima Benegas



Joshua Bravo



Ms. Lindsay Varis

**You can check out the [winning video here](#)  
You can learn more about  
upcoming Directing Change  
film contests and see  
videos from [other winners  
here](#)**