

The header banner features the name "Scott Mark Schmerelson" in a large, black, cursive font on the left. On the right, there is a photograph of Scott Mark Schmerelson, a man with a mustache wearing a grey suit, pointing at a whiteboard in a classroom setting. The whiteboard has some handwritten notes. Below the name, the text "Board Member - Representing Board District 3" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Scott Mark Schmerelson

Board Member - Representing Board District 3

The Board District 3 School and Community Update

Representing the following communities

Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Granada Hills, Greater Valley Glen, Lake Balboa, Reseda, North Hills, North Hollywood, Northridge, Mission Hills, Porter Ranch, Studio City, Tarzana, Van Nuys, Woodland Hills, West Hills, Winnetka

October 2015

Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee

As a former teacher, counselor and administrator, Board Member Schmerelson was honored by his recent appointment by LAUSD Board President Zimmer as the Chair of the Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee for the 2015-2016 school year.

This committee reviews curriculum and instructional initiatives and assesses progress towards educational equity. In addition to three of Scott's Board colleagues and District staff, the committee is comprised of representatives from the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles (AALA), the California School Employees Association (CSEA), United Teachers Los Angeles, local District Parent, Teacher and Student Associations (PTSA), the Advancement Project and UCLA Center X.

The first committee meeting was held on October 6. Topics presented to the Committee included an update and analysis of the Smarter Balanced Assessment scores, Smarter Balanced Assessment Professional Development Resources, the Districts Early Language and Literacy Plan, New ELD Standards and the recently updated LAUSD College and Career Readiness Plan.

At the end of the meeting, Board Member Schmerelson highlighted important information that was presented and applauded thoughtful questions raised during the meeting.

He also encouraged the audience to email him any questions, concerns and ideas for future meetings.

You may visit the meeting webpage at <http://www.laschoolboard.org/10-06-15CIA> to view the material presented at the committee.



Board Member Schmerelson waiting for the committee external representatives

International Walk to School Day

On the morning of October 7, students, parents, educators and community leaders from Dolores Huerta Elementary School joined Mayor Garcetti, Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., LAUSD Board President Zimmer and Board Member Schmerelson as they led the crowd on a three-block walk to and from the school.

Across LAUSD, 120 schools joined this movement to promote the health and safety benefits of walking to school. Schools in Board District 3 that participated included Coldwater Canyon ES, Gault Street ES and Northridge MS. Currently, Dolores Huerta Elementary School, south of downtown LA, has one of the highest walk-to-school rates in the district with nearly 60 percent of the students making the walk from their homes to the school.

During the press event, elected officials discussed the ways that students can maintain an active lifestyle as well as staying safe when walking to school just by following simple instructions such as paying attention when crossing the streets and being conscious of the safety of everyone around them.

This was Board Member Schmerelson's first experience with International Walk to School Day. Speaking to the media, he echoed his colleagues' concerns about staying alert during the daily walk and advised the students to wave at motorists who may not see them crossing the street.



From left to right: LAUSD Board Member Schmerelson, Board President Zimmer, School Principal Gutierrez, Mayor Garcetti, Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr. and Joan Sullivan CEO of Partnership for LA Schools.

Volunteer Day at Leichman HS

Diane S. Leichman's High School Special Education Center has been organizing Volunteer Day for the past 5 years. For this special event, parents, students, and staff come to Leichman to work in the school garden. They help by weeding, raking, sweeping and tackling a lot of cleaning.

This year, Volunteer Day was held on September 26. In addition to parents, students and staff, a devoted group of UCLA students painted a mural in the garden area and also painted the basketball backboards. The UCLA Volunteer Center provided the muralist, food, all of the paint and supplies, and two large buses to transport 100 student volunteers.



Photo: From left to right: Board Member Schmerelson, Special Education teacher and UTLA Chair Helen Piltzer, and Principal Giovanni Trivino.

WWE stars bring anti-bullying message to Madison Middle School

More than 500 sixth-graders received an essential lesson from four stars of World Wrestling Entertainment about the importance of tolerance, resiliency and strength. “If you are getting bullied, you’re going to do something about it,” said pro wrestler Michael Mizanin.

The hour-long rally was raucous as adolescent boys and girls, all clad in “Be A Star” T-shirts, cheered their WWE heroes and their anti-bullying messages. Summer Rae warned about cyber-bullying harassment that can live forever on social media and offered strategies for dealing with tormentors.

This event was co-hosted by WWE and The Creative Coalition. The Be A Star rally first came to Madison two years ago thanks to the efforts of then student Angela Pakhanyan. Her sister, Arpy, along with classmates Emely Salamanca and Sophia Ruiz, were honored by the WWE crew for their efforts to promote tolerance and end bullying.

Principal Estelle Baptiste said of this event, “This is our most popular student assembly... Our students really listen to the message – you don’t have to bully.”



WWE stars Summer Rae, The Miz, Sin Cara and Kalisto, and actress Cassie Scerbo honor Madison Middle School students, from left, Sophia Ruiz, Emely Salamanca and Arpy Pakhanyan for their anti-bullying efforts.

Local District Northwest hosts launch event for schools participating in the Environmental Sustainability Challenge

On Monday October 12, Local District Northwest hosted a launch event for schools participating in the Global Humanitarian Challenge focused on Environmental Sustainability. The participating schools include Canoga Park HS, Miller CTC, Pomelo Community CS, Woodlake ECC, Panorama City El, Wooden HS, Porter MS, Hale CA, Andasol Ave El, Parthenia El, Colombus MS, and Northridge Academy HS.

Students, teachers, leaders, and community partners came together to celebrate the Global Humanitarian Challenge's connection to the United Nations Goal for Sustainable Development #15: Life on Land. The event also provided opportunities to build community among participating schools and organize for success as they explored the possibilities for collaboration and support within the context of the Environmental Sustainability Challenge.

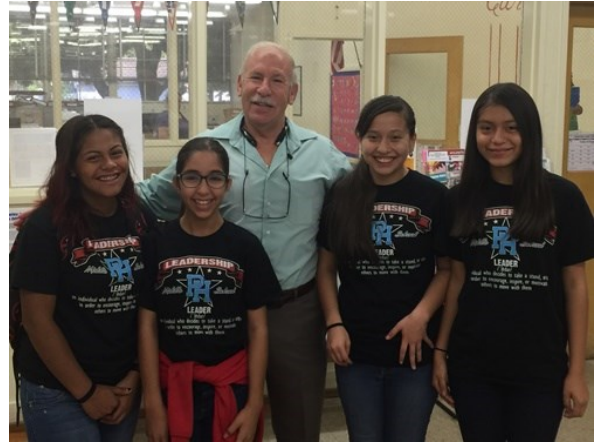
Local District Northwest celebrates all schools committed to providing students with engaging and culturally responsive project-based learning opportunities that will prepare them to be college and career ready in our 21st Century global market.

For more information on other Local District Northwest initiatives please visit: <http://achieve.lausd.net/northwest>

Board Member Schmerelson visits Henry Middle School



Board Member Schmerelson with Principal Cruz, school administrators and parent volunteers



Board Member Schmerelson with students from the Leadership class



Board Member Schmerelson with Principal Cruz and school Director, Mr. Narcoda.

Installation of the Gold Ribbon School Plaque at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences

Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences has been recognized as a 2015 California Gold Ribbon School with special distinction for their high achievement and exemplary arts program.

The Gold Ribbon School plaque was recently added above the school's main entrance as a visual testament to the dedication and hard work of all who contributed to the great achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Employee Spotlight: Pamela Perlmutter

Pamela Perlmutter is an exemplary Special Education assistant at Columbus Middle School. During her tenure, she has distinguished herself for inspiring students, parents and colleagues.

As a Special Education Assistant, Ms. Perlmutter assisted teachers daily by caring for the physical needs of students with disabilities. She helped students learn how to effectively use books, classroom materials and equipment. She helped teachers in maintaining an environment conducive for learning and encouraging appropriate behavior by students. Ms. Perlmutter excelled at communicating and relating effectively with her students through her calm demeanor.

After 44 years of service with LAUSD, Ms. Pearlmuter will retire at the end of this month.

We thank her for her dedicated service to the children of our community and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Student Spotlight: NiTasha Denson

NiTasha Denson, a sophomore at Valley Academy of the Arts and Sciences, was recently recognized as the recipient of the “Beat the Odds” Scholarship from the nonprofit Children’s Defense Fund - California. The CDF-CA Beats the Odds scholarship program recognizes outstanding young people who have overcome adversity to excel in school and as leaders in their communities.

The award includes a \$10,000 scholarship, SAT preparation, and a suite of academic and career readiness opportunities to support them as they transition from high school to college and beyond.

Upon receiving the award NiTasha stated that, "I am excited and proud to have been selected as a recipient of the Beat the Odds Scholarship. I am also thankful."

A mini-documentary on NiTasha will be shown at the organization’s annual gala on December 3, 2015.



NiTasha, 10th grade student

Choices Application for the 2015 Magnet Programs are now available

The window for applying to the CHOICES Programs will be from Thursday, October 1st through Friday, November 13th. These programs allow students to attend a magnet school or a campus outside their attendance area and are open to all students residing within the District's boundaries.

For parents and guardians who do not have access to the internet, paper copies of the CHOICES brochures in English and Spanish will be available at all District schools, Los Angeles City public libraries, Local District Offices, Parent Community Student Services and LAUSD headquarters.

For more information on the application process, please visit the eChoices website at <http://echoices.lausd.net/>



Digital Citizenship Week

Digital Citizenship is the practice of critical engagement and respectful behavior online, which is demonstrated through the digital content a student posts.

In collaboration with Common Sense Education, the District celebrated the third-annual LAUSD Digital Citizenship Week from October 19-24. The first year the program was held at Western Elementary School, the second year was at the Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences and this year the event was hosted by the Maya Angelou Community High School.

Common Sense Education is a national non-profit organization that helps kids and families thrive in the digital age. The Digital Citizenship program teaches students to maximize the potential of technology while safely and responsibly engaging in the vast online world. It promotes skills for using online technologies for learning, communicating and collaborating as well as preparing students for becoming college and career ready.

Guests included members of LAUSD's Office of Instructional Technology Initiative, Chief Zipperman of the LAUSD School Police, and Tracy Perez, actress from the *East Los High* television series.

To learn more about LAUSD's Digital Citizenship Week, please visit the website at <http://achieve.lausd.net/digcit>



LAUSD's First School "Jeopardy" hosted at Van Nuys Middle School

On October 14, more than 1,000 students from all grades at Van Nuys Middle school took a general knowledge test to determine which students would be eligible to participate in preliminary games within each grade level. Those winners competed for the school championship. As seen on the popular television quiz show, contestants were required to respond to each clue in the form of a question.

After an intense competition, the three students that competed for a spot in the championship were Edwin Ballesteros in sixth grade, Lily Klein in seventh grade and Bryson Tindzley in eighth grade.

The game was hosted by actor Bob Bergen, the current voice of Porky the Pig. During, the half-hour sessions, the scores changed frequently as the contestants gained confidence and sharpened their buzzing-in technique. Many of the questions asked covered topics such as civics, literature, math and science.

This year, Bryson Tindzley became the "Jeopardy" winner after having earned 14,100 points.

He received two tickets from JetBlue airlines to attend the Classroom Jeopardy's Southern California School Tournament of Champions on June 11, 2016.



Jeopardy creator Jim Birge and host Bob Bergen with contestants, from left to right, Edwin Ballesteros, Lily Klein and Bryson Tindzley.

Board Member Schmerelson joins friends at a California Retired Teachers Association Meeting

The California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) is a nonpartisan organization that is characterized by its grassroots activism and advocacy. Volunteerism is at the core of the Association's appeal.

Over the years, CalRTA has earned a reputation as a tireless watchdog over the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS). The Association helps ensure that the state honors its commitment to teachers and develops and supports fiscally prudent measures to improve the financial security of retired educators.

CalRTA has evolved into a multi-faceted organization. Its members provide a backbone of volunteer service that keeps local communities strong. CalRTA members have funded more than \$550,000 in grants and scholarships to schools and to current and future teachers.

To learn more about Cal RTA please visit <http://calrta.org/explore-calrta/events/>



From left to right: Eileen Banta, Dr. Doris Lasiter, Scott, Ricky Kupferer members of the CAIRTA Area VII, Division 19

2016 Youth Garden Grant



The 2016 Youth Garden Grant is an award designed to support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities.

Eligibility: Any nonprofit, school, or youth program planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. The selection of winners is based on demonstrated program impact and sustainability.

Winners will be notified via email on January 21, 2016. A list of winners will also be posted on KidsGardening.org on that date.

Deadline: December 1, 2015

Website: <http://grants.kidsgardening.org/2016-youth-garden-grant>

Campbell's Labels for Education

The Campbell's, Inc. Labels for Education Program gives schools free educational equipment in exchange for labels from Campbell products.



How can you help? By collecting UPCs and beverage/sauce caps from the many participating products and supplementing your earnings with the bonus offers, your school earns points that can be redeemed for Arts, Athletics, and Academics merchandise. Go ahead and explore the Campbell's online catalog to see what your school can earn!

Eligibility: Schools or parents can coordinate label drives to raise resources for their schools.

Deadline: There is no deadline.

Website: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>

**Hope to see many of our schools apply for these great opportunities.
Good Luck!!**

Upcoming Meetings

We'd like to hear from you...

We want to recognize you and have others learn about the great things that are happening at your school sites.

If you would like us to feature any students, teachers, administrators, recent events and or accomplishments, please send any updates to:
Silvia.K.Martinez@lausd.net.

The following meetings will be held at LAUSD Headquarters

333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90017

- 11-3-15 Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Equity Committee
- 11-10-15 Closed Session
- 11-10-15 Regular Board Meeting
- 11-17-15 Budget, Facilities and Audit Committee
- 11-17-15 Successful School Climate Committee

Contact Us

Headquarters:

333 S. Beaudry Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone: (213) 241-8333

District Office:

6651 Balboa Blvd. #A Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Phone: (818) 654-3285

We are on the Web!

<http://achieve.lausd.net/schmerelson>

