



Robert Collins, Superintendent

Annette Star, Literacy Coordinator

District 1... where students come first!



Robert Collins

Local District 1 Superintendent
2000 - 2005

We, as part of the District 1 Family, thank you for your leadership, passion, inspiration, and motivation. Your unwavering commitment to the Open Court Reading Program, to rigorous differentiated instruction for all our students, and to our District One Literacy Team, has provided us with the vision and direction for our work.

We wish you well on your new endeavor, and we look forward to continuing our work under the leadership of our new Superintendent.

**CELEBRATE! SHARE THE GOOD NEWS...
MIDYEAR KINDERGARTEN SCORES ARE SOARING!**

A record number of kindergarten students in District One met or exceeded benchmark performance levels on the Midyear Open Court Assessments. Even greater numbers of students met or exceeded benchmark in our new Full Day Kindergarten classrooms.

Two years ago, only 70% of our kindergarten students were able to read 6 out of 10 high frequency words. This year in our Full Day Kindergarten classrooms, 85% met benchmark!

Two years ago, only 74% of our kindergarten students were able to identify lowercase letters. This year in our Full Day Kindergarten classrooms, 83% met benchmark!

Research shows that students who are early independent readers learn better throughout their school years, become motivated readers who typically read more than children who learn to read later and develop increased vocabulary, appreciation of literature and general knowledge.

All of us at District One are encouraged by the progress our Kindergarten students are making toward become fluent, comprehending readers by the end of first grade. Such gains would not be possible without the focused efforts, dedication and hard work of the Literacy Coaches, teachers, and administrators in our District One Schools. Kudos to you all!

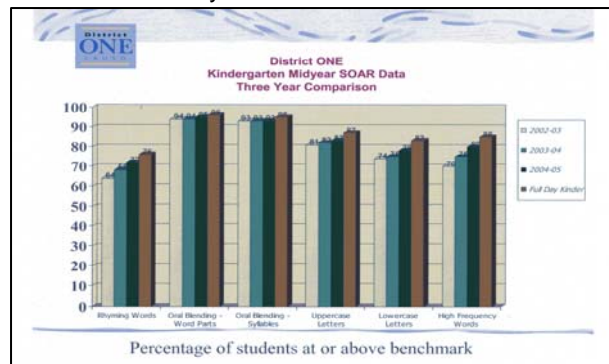
DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETINGS

- May 5** **Coach Meeting**
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Devonshire Site
- May 14** **Coach Meeting**
(ELSG Training)
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Devonshire Site
- May 26** **Reading First Action Seminar**
(Reading First Schools only)
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Parthenia ES Auditorium
- May 31** **Coach Meeting: Sandra Kaplan Workshop**
(Selected Coaches only)
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Dist. 1 Conference Room
- June 1** **New Coach Meeting**
1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Devonshire Site
- June 2** **Coach Meeting**
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Devonshire Site

TRAININGS

- May 20-21** **Coach Institute /Reading Certificate Program**
(Non-Reading First Coaches in Program)
Devonshire Site



Mid-Year Kindergarten SOAR scores are available on line with the Unit 3 SOAR data at http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Dist_1/eliteracy.

**GOVERNOR'S READING INSTITUTES
Summer 2005**

Registration is now open for **all** K-5 teachers and **substitutes** to enroll in the summer reading institutes. This summer, for the first time in several years, teachers in both Reading First and non-Reading First schools may enroll in any of the institutes being offered. However, please remind teachers that the institutes are sequential and build upon each other. If teachers are unsure as to which level they should take, especially when changing grade levels, they should seek the advice of their Principal and/or Literacy Coach. All teachers completing an institute will receive a \$500 stipend and be eligible for 80 additional hours of professional development (Passport) throughout the year with an additional \$500 stipend. The website for registration is <http://www.csbe.ca.gov>.



A Note from Annette...



It's hard to believe that it's May, with flowers in bloom, matrixes being posted, and STAR testing beginning. Over this last week, as I began the task of compiling highlights from 2004-2005 and setting priorities for 2005-2006

for our new Superintendent, I was again reminded of the importance of reflection and focus. Looking back on all we have collectively accomplished this year, which was considerable, I am reminded of the goal I set in September for this year to "raise the bar and close the gap."

I feel confident that all of the enthusiasm, energy and just plain sweat that went into this year will be validated by significant gains on our state testing. When I reflect on the ever-increasing student achievement and how far we have come in terms of instructional strategies, lesson preparation, classroom management, and even on-time-task, I know that these improvements are due largely to your dedication and commitment as literacy coaches. Know that your willingness to take on so much responsibility, in a role that so often goes underappreciated, is highly respected and valued by all of us in District One. Good coaches are hard to come by.

So, as we move toward testing, take some time to look back over this past year and all your many accomplishments and know that you are the most important cog in the wheel that drives our literacy program.

-- Annette Star,
Literacy Coordinator

Expert Advice

Questioning Yourself



Reflection and introspection are important activities for coaches. Do you understand your own motivations and opinions and how they influence your communication with teachers? If your goal is to effectively communicate with others, consider asking yourself these questions first:

- *What are my feelings about the person or situation?*
- *What is my opinion?*
- *Am I making assumptions about the person or situation?*

Before meeting teachers for a pre-conference or meeting, ask yourself these questions too:

- *What is the goal of this interaction?*
- *How much do I really understand about the situation?*
- *What information do I need?*
- *How will the person respond to this type of message?*
- *What will I do with this information?*

Establish a focus before meeting with teachers and ask focused questions that elicit more specific and concrete information. For example, "How is Josie doing?" is vague and may result in an account of Josie's overall progress, her upcoming birthday party, her homework excuses, and so on. A more focused question, such as "How is Josie succeeding in the blending lesson we planned?" is more likely to elicit information you want.

From your experts,
Aviva, Cecilia, Gayle, Helen & Joanne

TOBIE'S TIPS



As the month of April draws to a close, I want to remind you that Passport completion and verification is around the corner and due on May 6, 2005.

To quote Anatole France, a Nobel Prize-winning author, "Ninety-ninths of education is ENCOURAGEMENT."

- ENCOURAGE Passport candidates to complete their portfolios.
- ENCOURAGE candidates at Reading First schools to take the 40 hours of Z-time to plan and deliver rigorous academic programs.
- ENCOURAGE your Coach friends to co-present.
- ENCOURAGE neighboring staff members to attend.
- ENCOURAGE the building of capacity.

The suggested activities listed below are designed to help facilitate the refinement of teaching practices and fulfill the 40-hour component.

The 40 hours of Z-time is to be completed before the end of the last day of instruction for the 2004-2005 school year. The activities were designed to be collaborative, face-to-face time with coaches, and grade-level team members to better plan, teach, and reflect on lessons. Some collaborative activities include:

- Participating in approved Open Court professional developments.
- Planning next week's lessons or the next unit with your grade level by studying the T.E.
- Previewing the assessments with your grade level and identifying where standards are addressed in OCR.
- Sharing best practices to improve your ability to deliver content effectively.
- Analyzing data as a grade level and setting team goals for the next unit.
- Utilizing Teachscape as a group to plan, watch lessons, debrief, and study the research behind teaching practice.
- Attend evening trainings where teachers from across the district collaborate and by writing a half page to full page write up of how they will follow-up evening training in their classrooms. (If you chose this option, you might want to consider working with another coach at a school. Please let us know so that we can invite additional teachers that need to complete their hours.)
- A collaborative activity pre-approved by your Literacy Coach Coordinator or Expert.

If you, or your principal, are having difficulty accessing the Passport website, please let me know as soon as possible. There is one of me, eighty of you, and hundreds of Passport candidates with deadlines to meet. Yikes!

-- Tobie Snitser,
Literacy Advisor

Congratulations to **Aleta Johnson** at **Stagg ES**, who recently promoted to Asst. Principal at the same school.

Congratulations to our new brides - **Susie Weinstock** of **Newcastle ES**, **Kathy Frank** of **Bassett ES**, and **Helen Kim** of the **District 1 Reading Program**.

Congratulations to new moms – **Rocio Serna** of **Liggett ES** and **Eliza Parker** of **Superior ES**; new grandmother, **Gio Hawkins** of **Parthenia ES**, and new grandaunt, **Tobie Snitser**, our Literacy Advisor.

Happy Birthday to our April/May celebrants – **Marci Edge** (Apr. 2), **Eliza Parker** (Apr. 19), **Jet Manalastas** (May 3), **Terri Kuhlmann** (May 4), **Cynthia Dominguez** (May 9), **Lila Klausner** (May 10), **Gayle Wolf** (May 11), **Yvonne Holmes** (May 19), **Adrienne Asarch-Aronowitz** (May 20), **Kimberly Hunter** (May 20), **Leslee Hazan** (May 21), and **Rocio Serna** (May 26).

And **Happy Mothers' Day** to all moms and aspiring moms.