



April 2007  
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# COACH TALK

District 1 ... where students come first!



District  
**ONE**  
LAUSD

## What's happening in the Cleveland Complex



The audience at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Cleveland Complex Spelling Bee on March 29, 2007 buzzed with anticipation as every contestant came to the microphone awaiting the next word to be spelled. Blythe, Calahan, Cantara, Fullbright, Garden Grove, Lorne, Newcastle, and Winnetka ES had their 1<sup>st</sup> place contestants from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade vying for the complex trophy.

The friendly competition had a great turn out that included families of the participants, administrators and faculty from the respective schools. Superintendent Jean Brown, Director Madelyn Coopersmith, and our very own Annette Star, Cecilia Martinez, and Marci Edge were on hand to assist with pronouncing and judging. Once again our District 1 Literacy Coaches went above and beyond. Congratulations to all the participants.



Jean Brown  
Superintendent  
Annette Star  
Literacy Coordinator

How to Contact Us  
Fax: (818) 344-2417

**Annette Star**  
654-3664  
[annette.star@lausd.net](mailto:annette.star@lausd.net)

**Tobie Snitser**  
654-3648  
[tobie.snitser@lausd.net](mailto:tobie.snitser@lausd.net)

**Rosa Gonzales-Acosta**  
654-3697  
[rosa.gonzales@lausd.net](mailto:rosa.gonzales@lausd.net)

**Marci Edge**  
654-3662  
[marci.edge@lausd.net](mailto:marci.edge@lausd.net)

**Aviva Freeman**  
654-3661  
[aviva.freeman@lausd.net](mailto:aviva.freeman@lausd.net)

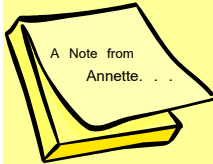
**Helen Kim**  
654-3697  
[helen.h.kim@lausd.net](mailto:helen.h.kim@lausd.net)

**Cecilia Martinez**  
654-3660  
[cecilia.martinez@lausd.net](mailto:cecilia.martinez@lausd.net)

**Josie Stevens**  
654-3662  
[josephine.stevens@lausd.net](mailto:josephine.stevens@lausd.net)

**Gayle Wolf**  
654-3697  
[gayle.wolf@lausd.net](mailto:gayle.wolf@lausd.net)

**Monica Parga**  
654-3654  
[monica.parga@lausd.net](mailto:monica.parga@lausd.net)



As I have been visiting schools over the last month, I have been focusing on the type of feedback our students receive and the importance of providing appropriate feedback to students so that they are successful in learning a new concept or skill. Was the feedback helpful? Did it improve performance or change behavior? Was it a positive or negative experience? Are errors going uncorrected? Or are teachers giving students the answers or moving on to other students for a correct answer?

Learning requires feedback; and as stated in the book, *Classroom Instruction That Works* (Marzano et al., p. 9), "The most powerful single modification that enhances achievement is feedback. The simplest prescription for improving education must be 'dollops of feedback.'"

At the last Reading First Coach Institute, one of the modules entitled *Effective Feedback: Getting It Right*, looked at different types of feedback based on the student responses. Research indicates that when a correct answer is given, an effective teacher asks a new question. When a correct, but somewhat tentative answer is given, an effective teacher provides knowledge of the results by restating the information. When

an incorrect answer is carelessly provided, an effective teacher provides corrective feedback and moves on. When an incorrect response indicates a lack of understanding, an effective teacher provides hints or clues so the student can provide a correct response. Effective teachers continually probe for clarification and improved answers.

As you are visiting classrooms over the next few months, what types of feedback are you observing? How would more effective feedback *fundamentally improve the interaction between the teacher and the student?*

We will be sharing the entire module on effective feedback at a future coach meeting.

## OCR Summer Teaching Institute (GRI)

The District memo regarding training this summer will be available in the next two to three weeks; however, the website is currently available for teachers to begin registering ([www.csbe.ca.gov/](http://www.csbe.ca.gov/)). Once again the number of sessions and locations of those sessions is very limited. If you have teachers interested in the new institute for English Learners (Year 5), let them know that it will only be offered in July. The courses have been renamed by year as follows:

- Year 1 – New
- Year 2 – Advanced
- Year 3 – Mastery I
- Year 4 – Mastery II
- Year 5 – Mastery III and EL
- Year 6 – Mastery IV

Non-Reading First teachers may only attend the Year 1 training. Everyone (Reading First and Non-Reading First) will only receive the \$500 stipend this year. There is no tenths pay for attending an institute for anyone. An additional \$500 is available upon completion of the Passport.

If you have questions, please refer either to the memo that will be available shortly or call our office.

### Dates to Remember

#### New Coach Academy

Wednesday, April 25  
Devonshire Site, Room 5  
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10  
District 1, Conf. K  
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

#### Reading First Action

##### Seminar

Thursday, April 26  
Parthenia ES,  
Auditorium  
4:00 – 7:30 p.m.

#### Principal/Coach Meeting

Wednesday, May 30



## Tobie's Tips

With your magnificent assistance, the End of the Year fluency assessments, next years six week Skills Assessments and the textbook orders for 07-08 have all been placed and completed. You are done with inventorying, counting and estimating for the year! Kudos to you all!

### Verification and Certification of Passport Portfolio's

The month of May usually brings Spring flowers, but in our case it brings the verification and certification of Passports. Both of these responsibilities typically rests with the site administer or a designee (aka literacy coach). All Passports Portfolio's are to be organized, completed, and in the Literacy Coaches hands by **Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. You may want to print due date in the staff bulletin and post it above the sign in and or in the lunchroom. You will need time to review each portfolio confirming the participants documentation of a maximum of the 36 hours of grade level meetings, no more than 24 hours of classroom unit assessment hours, and the remaining hours needed of District Approved trainings. Trainings either provided by the school's literacy coach or content expert during and/or outside instructional time (i.e. Professional Development Days, Banked Time and/or Lesson Study) on OCR content specific material. Documentation could include: meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, classroom or grade level action plans. In addition teachers can earn up to 6 hours for participation in a 3 day lesson study, and up to 6 hours for attending the 5 day ELD Institute. **A reminder, Getting Results, Sandra Kaplan training. Thinking Maps and BTSA training do not qualify for Passport credit.**

After the portfolios are verified, **ONLY** the principal is to register as the online certifier at [www.csbe.ca.gov/passport](http://www.csbe.ca.gov/passport) . After he/she registers you can use his/her password to certify each participant online. The DEADLINE for certification is May **11<sup>th</sup>**. **Follow** the prompts and mark each participant who have completed the 80 hours of Passport follow-up activities. Once you have completed the certification process for all eligible teachers at your school site please fax (818-344-2417) or mail a copy of the teachers certified at your school to me at Elementary Literacy District One.

If you have specific Passport questions email [gr.passport@scoe.net](mailto:gr.passport@scoe.net) and/or call me at 654-3648

- Tobie Snitser,  
Literacy Advisor



## Expert Advice



Can you believe that it is almost the end of April? Are you wondering if you will have enough time to do everything that you planned to do at your school? As you reflect on the school year, have you been able to provide assistance and support to all classroom teachers? We are thinking about the Special Education teachers specifically.

It is very important that every student is ensured "access to the general education curriculum". According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provisions need to be made to ensure that each student with a disability receives a high quality and individually designed education. No Child Left Behind, 2001, requires accountability on the part of schools and the school system to reinforce a standards-driven reform. Specific attention to providing an individual student with a disability access to the general education curriculum is specified in the IEP.

With all of this information we have a few questions for you to reflect upon. How have you supported your Special Education teachers? Have you been able to help develop a plan so that multilevels are taught the required core curriculum? What types of accommodations are being made for some students? How many students are being mainstreamed? Are these students mainstreamed for Unit Openers? Or are they mainstreamed for Unit Openers as well as the Preparing to Read section? How many are mainstreamed for the entire Language Arts time?

Yes, we only have two months of school left. What goals can you make to support the Special Education teachers at your school? Their students are just as important as the general education students. We highly encourage you to get in there and see what you can do to ensure that **all** students are taught the core curriculum at their grade level.

### YOU CAN DO THIS!

**Your Experts,**

**- Aviva, Cecilia, Gayle, Josie and Marci**

#### Check it out

Nancy Fradin, Literacy Coach at Calvert ES, recently received a laptop and a LCD projector by completing a grant request at the following website: <http://www.donorschore.org>



#### Welcome back ...

SooJin Horio, Literacy Coach at Winnetka ES returning from leave, formerly from Kester ES



#### Email Migration

Email migration has affected many Coaches. Has your email changed? Please contact Monica Parga at [monica.parga@lausd.net](mailto:monica.parga@lausd.net) . Maintaining our records will allow for the best communication.