



June 2007
Volume 5, Issue 10

COACH TALK

District 1 ... where students come first!



District
ONE
LAUSD

Jean Brown
Superintendent
Annette Star
Literacy Coordinator

New Coach Academy



Missing Coaches: Silvia Roman and Sara Cardenas, Langdon ES and Adriana Rubalcava, Plummer ES.

Congratulations to our New Coach Academy graduates! After a year of hard work in building relationships, getting deeper into content, and simply acclimation to the life of a coach, our new coaches have grown on many different levels. They all agree that this year has been a learning experience. In their end-of-the-year reflections, they shared some insightful goals that they have set for themselves for next year. They include:

- creating more focused action plans
- making sure follow-through happens at their schools
- turning conversations with teachers into productive time
- analyzing data that leads to more effective teaching strategies
- initiating more debriefing meetings with teachers

and so much more! We want to wish our new coaches a successful year of coaching and another year of growth.



Dates to Remember

July 26

Year Round Coach Meeting
LD1, CONF.K

July 23-27

New Coach Training (Year Round Coaches)
Wilshire Grand

August 14-16

Coach Buy Back Days

August 17

First Day of Work (Traditional Calendar coaches only)

August 20-24

New Coach Training (Traditional calendar coaches)
Wilshire Grand

!Happy Retirement!



"My assessments aren't here!"
What to do?
Call Tobie.
"My book order is incorrect."
What to do?
Call Tobie.
"My data is not in."
What to do?
Call Tobie. Call Tobie. Call Tobie.

Yes, our Tobie was always there on the other end of the line with a calming voice and a patient ear, ready to search for a solution to whatever crisis might have presented itself. But, after 3 years of answering our calls and emails, Tobie is ready to hang up the phone, close the email account and enter that wonderful world we all look forward to: RETIREMENT!

Tobie began her teaching career in 1969 at Eastman Elementary School. She taught there for 4 years before moving to West Hollywood E.S. where she would spend the next 20. From there she made her way to Lockhurst Elementary School, here in the San Fernando Valley before becoming a Literacy Coach assigned to Tarzana. In 2004 the stars were aligned in our favor and Tobie was assigned to Local District 1 as an Advisor. Here is where she learned to respond so graciously to all our calls and save the day whenever we found ourselves in need.

Tobie we wish you and Arnie the best in wherever this new chapter in your lives may lead. Thank you for your professionalism and dedication to children over these quick 38 years. Godspeed and good luck. But just in case we ever need anything, just know that we'll be keeping your cell on speed dial here at the office!

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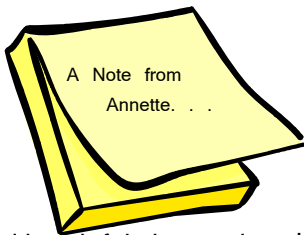
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As I reflect on the past year, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize the dedicated efforts of the entire **District 1 Literacy Team**. It is truly a rewarding experience to be part of such a powerful, effective team. But such teamwork would not be possible without the commitment and effort of each individual on the team.

Thanks to **Helen** who has been my right hand this past year. Her sound judgment, organization,

and insightful observations have been crucial to so much of the success of our team. She has been involved in so many projects this past year, many "behind the scenes" for which she frequently does not get the credit she deserves. Her role has been so significant a role in supporting new coaches, working with the coaches in her cadre, leading Lesson Studies, writing the presentations for the principal coach meetings, sharing the responsibilities of performance evaluation, organizing and leading team meetings and always pitching in to assist where needed.

Thanks to **Aviva, Cecilia, Gayle, Josie, Marci and Rosa** who go above and beyond on a daily basis to share their expertise and enthusiasm. These wonderful ladies see every new problem as an opportunity to learn and grow as a professional and have a wonderful way of making things happen. It never ceases to amaze me how they are able to take an idea of mine and run with it – resulting in a product far exceeding my expectations. The depth and breadth of their knowledge can be seen in staff development presentations which are carefully designed to meet the specific and varied needs of teachers, principals and coaches. The one-to-one coaching support and the work with Coach Cadres have been amazing this year. A special thank you to **Rosa**, who in addition to her work with her cadre and lesson studies, seamlessly coordinated the Paraprofessional Training earlier this year and is currently working with Tobie to make the transition to the advisor position that will be providing the first line of support to our coaches next year.

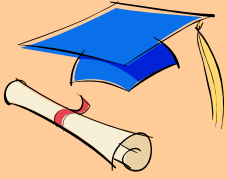
Thanks to **Tobie** for expertly and patiently answering a hundred questions a day, for monitoring assessment data and supporting our "coachless" schools. She comes to work each day with a smile on her face and manages to keep that smile on all day. Her many thoughtful gestures, the kind that are so often neglected when people get busy, are appreciated by all. She has a wonderful way to deliver even the most difficult message in a humorous, calming manner. She will be greatly missed next year as she transitions to a "lady of leisure" in a well deserved retirement.

Thanks to **Monica**, for always anticipating all of our needs, for taking the initiative to develop procedures which ensure the smooth completion of all our varied projects, for her creative and advanced computer skills, and especially for her enthusiastic and cheerful acceptance of any request that is made. She works hard to keep us all organized (and on time) and graciously rushes around to get the countless last minute requests completed in time for our meetings and presentations.

And, of course, thanks to all of you **coaches**, without whom there would be no literacy team. Thank you for accepting the daily challenges you endlessly face, and for persevering in supporting your teachers through thick and thin in their efforts to meet the instructional needs of all our students. Thank you especially for your patience as your responsibilities change and grow and change again. And a special thanks to our **Social Committee, Arlene Cowen, Leslee Hazan** ---- for planning our celebrations and acknowledging our personal needs, and to those who helped them with the year-end festivities, -----.

Most of all, thanks to **ALL OF YOU** on the literacy team for your outstanding professionalism, which makes me so proud to be your coordinator.





Tobie's Tips

Looking Back



What seems like 5 years ago, but in actuality was 38 years ago when my very first principal suggested that we read the student cums at the beginning of the year. He said that it would provide us with information on the successes and learning gaps of the students. Being a new teacher I wanted to do everything just right. So, I began to read the cums. Almost of the comments read something this: "Student is making average progress in reading." "Student does not understand what he/she is reading." "Student has difficult time writing." Needless to say that those generic comments provided me little knowledge as to what gaps existed or what my next steps should be.

And then there was Open Court, the advent of school site coaches, on-going professional development, and meaningful assessments. Thanks to you, and your daily work teachers now have the knowledge and tools to support students who need to develop phonemic awareness, practice fluency elements, use strategies to help make meaning from text, or tackle the etymology of an unfamiliar word.

The power of knowledge is truly miraculous! I have been so very fortunate to experience the growth and development in education, teaching and learning. I can honestly say that the last thirty-eight years as a teacher, coach, and advisor have been exciting, challenging, rewarding and forever memorable. I will miss the "spark" I get at every professional development. I will miss the level of discussion, dialogue and commitment that buzzes within our office and at our meetings. I will miss the opportunity to problem solve, inform and listen to the everyday questions and concerns from all of you.

I thank you for the years of patience, friendship, laughter and trust. You are truly a dynamic group and I am grateful to have been a part of this literacy family.

My wish for you is that each of you days be filled with passion for the work that you do, happiness from morning to evening and the satisfaction I feel today as I look back at my career.

I will miss you all,
Tobie



SOME YEAR-END SENTIMENTS.



Good luck and happy trails to our retirees **Tobie Snitser**, **Beverly Silver** of Bertrand ES, **Vivian Wood** of Cohasset ES, **Cathy Altuvilla** of Reseda ES and **Mary Vandenberg** of Shirley ES.

Good luck . . . to **Cindy Cramer** of Vintage ES who is going back to the classroom, and . . . to **Aida Tatiossian** of Lemay ES who is returning to Reseda ES as the coordinator.

Welcome back Rajinder Sahani from the Central Office position working with non-public Reading First School. Rajinder will be coaching at Bassett ES.

Congratulations to Alice Wang on the birth of her triplets.



Happy Birthday

- 6/5 Marilyn Hubert
- 6/5 Deborah Sheiner
- 6/10 Cynthia Hernandez
- 6/13 Tobie Snitser
- 6/21 Barbara Sunenshine
- 6/22 Annette Star
- 6/26 Amy Lamon

Expert Advice

"When continuous improvement becomes embedded in a system's culture, it functions as 'the guiding force that keeps the school on target in an uncompromising quest for quality at every corner of the campus.'"

-Your Experts
Aviva, Cecilia, Gayle, Josie and Marci

READING FIRST COACH INSTITUTE



Coach who have not completed the first 40 modules should register for one or two of the above sessions online at <http://www.csbe.ca.gov> click Register, then Coach Institutes

Session I (Modules 1-10)	June 25-29 September 17-21	Wilshire Grand or Marriott, Manhattan Beach
Session II (Modules 11-20)	October 8-12	Marriott, Manhattan Beach
Session III (Modules 21-30)	July 16-20 September 17-21	Wilshire Grand or Marriott, Manhattan Beach
Session IV (Modules 31-40)	October 8-12	Marriott, Manhattan Beach