



Robert Collins, Superintendent

Annette Star, Literacy Coordinator

District 1 ...where students come first!

Instruction
With
Targeted Students



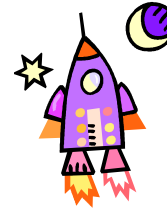
Focused
Independent Work
Time

Our Superintendent, Mr. Collins, has continuously emphasized the importance of teaching the *Open Court Reading* program with true fidelity. IWT/Workshop is the time set aside daily to differentiate instruction for our far below, below, and basic proficient students. All District One elementary administrators participated in two professional development sessions in November and December. These sessions on the organization and phasing-in of IWT, as well as the type of small group instruction and authentic activities that students must and may do, were skillfully led by **Shelly Brower**, **Chana Nutkiewicz**, and **Joanne Cho**. A more in-depth professional development was presented to the coaches at their December meeting, including suggestions on how to share this information back at their school sites with their teachers.



IWT is the engine that drives the reading program. If it is not in place in the classroom, individual needs will not be met. IWT is the place for intervention, prevention, and expansion of knowledge. Our intensive, strategic, benchmark, and advanced students all benefit from small group instruction, guidance and activities to enable them to achieve at their own levels. But to be truly beneficial, Independent Work Time must be much more than students working independently. Students must be doing work that meets their independent needs and be encouraged to work collaboratively to build on their knowledge.

What's happening at your school?



SEEING STARS

This last month, fifth grade students at **Shirley ES** participated in a **STAR PARTY** with family and friends. Supporting the *Back Through The Stars* theme, students spent an evening working interactively with NASA/JPL experts. Activities included trying on a replica of an astronaut suit, peering through telescopes, and a live appearance by "Galileo" in which he presents his wonderful invention, the telescope, to the audience.

Now, if that doesn't stir up excitement and seed vocabulary for the theme, what will?



THE NEIGHBORHOOD WAS AT WORK IN LANAI

As an end of unit celebration (*Unit 3-Neighborhood at Work*), Amy Besser's First Grade class at **Lanai**

Road ES, came dressed as community workers they would like to be when they grow up, and presented their workers' tool kit to the class. The oral presentation, tool kit, and written report were graded by a student generated rubric.



TRIBUTES AND HONORS TO OUR COACHES



On October 15th at our City-wide Meeting, Alice Furry, Chief Administrator Officer for the Reading Lyons, recognized **Madelyne Coopersmith** as the first Open Court Literacy Coordinator (pictured at the center, top photo); **Shelly Brower** as a member of the initial Expert team, and **Aviva Freeman**, **Gioconda Hawkins**, **Rosa Gonzales-Acosta**, **Marie Reilly**, **Chris Hamiter** (bottom photo), and **Paul Lemcke** as the original Literacy Coach pioneers. All were presented with beautiful plaques of recognition and received standing ovations from their colleagues.

We thank you for your contributions and for your continued support of literacy.

A Note from Annette...



There is always something very special about this time of year. Despite the commercialism in our streets and stores, there is a spirit of joy and caring in the air that always seems to prevail during the holiday season.

This time of year provides a rich opportunity to bring Writing Applications 2.2 into our daily lives as we zero in on our sensory experiences – the *taste* of traditional dishes; the *smell* of spices used in cookies, pies and other goodies; the *sight* of beautiful lights, candles, and cards; the *sound* of bells, music, fires crackling and popcorn popping and the special *feeling* of being close to loved ones and appreciating our heritage.

As the year draws to an end (*and as educators, we are fortunate to have some extra time off*), let's rediscover the child inside us and experience the holidays through our children's eyes so that we can..

Hear the joy in their laughter,
See the love in their eyes,
Feel the hope in their touch,
And join in . . .

The Joy,
The Hope,
The Wonder, and
The Love.



The District One Elementary Literacy Staff join me in our wish that each of you cherish the moments of this season of joy with your families and friends. We hope that this holiday season will add richness and meaning to your lives that will be treasured and fondly remembered in years to come.

- *Annette Star*
Literacy Coordinator

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2 latest additions to the District 1 Reading Program Office Staff – **Tobie Snitser**, our new Literacy Advisor, and **Gayle Wolf-Venet**, our new Reading First Expert.

Tobie comes to us from Tarzana ES, where she was the Literacy Coach for almost 4 years. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience on the Open Court program which our coaching staff will surely benefit from. Tobie is very excited about assuming the position recently vacated by Diana Keeney, claiming that she has “big shoes to fill,” but she's up for the challenge.

Gayle was at Noble ES for 21 years, 5 years of which she was their literacy coach. She now joins 3 other equally bright and capable Experts in District 1, namely: Joanne Cho, Aviva Freeman and Cecilia Martinez.

District 1 is very lucky to have such a strong group of reading program staff to service the OCR needs of our schools.

Birthdays

November

15 Meryl Kaufman 17 Aida Tatioosian

December

4 Gioconda Hawkins 11 Susan Carlson

25 Carole Wiltfong 11 Nancy Sklar

27 Mary Bowes 11 Wendy Treuhaft



Expert Advise

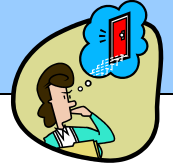
Remember the three **R's** of coaching. **Responsibility, Role and Relationship.** Take thirty minutes of your valuable time to read a few more pages of the Language Arts Framework or a research article you have been wanting to finish. Highlight one or two concepts you want to remember and share with other teachers. Your Role as a support person to the teachers is so important. Use another thirty minutes of your time to organize files or the bookroom to your liking. Take inventory of materials needed and do your best to make sure teachers have the materials they need to teach the reading program faithfully. Finally, don't forget to develop working relationships with all your teachers. Bring something delicious to eat and share in the morning or during lunch. Join the teachers in the lunch room. Come in with a great welcoming smile to let them know you are still a teacher and enjoy the company of teachers.

Enjoy your job and thank you for all that you do!

From your Experts,
Aviva, Cecilia, Joanne & Gayle



TOBIE'S TIPS



What's Hiding Behind Those Closed Doors?

It's time to check out the closets, cabinets, and cupboards. No, we're not looking for holiday hiding places. But, we are looking for gifts! Lurking in many of our schools are stacks and stacks of Core Literature that could be used in the classroom to support the unit themes. You might want to gather up some of those out of work elves to help you sort the titles, plastic bag them into groups of 3 or 4 for literature circles, label each bag with the theme, title, and reading level (easy, average, advanced). Before distributing them to the classrooms, please discuss/model with the teachers how these books should/could be used. One example is to use them for literature circles using the Open Court comprehension strategies and skills. Other benefits are to build background knowledge, linking to theme by adding to the Concept/Question boards, increasing handing off participation, improving vocabulary, and providing a differentiated library for all fluency levels.

How to contact us:

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 9 **Coach Meeting**
Devonshire Site
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 11 - **Kindergarten Prof. Dev.**
Devonshire Site
7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Register at <http://sib.lausd.net/drp>

Jan. 20 **Coach Meeting**
Devonshire Site
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 21 **Non-RF Coach Institute**
District 2 PD Site
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 22 **Non-RF Coach Institute**
Devonshire Site
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.