

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



Volume 11, Issue 58

March / April 2021

**Thank you Dr. Sonya Smith
for 35 years of dedication to the Hawthorne School District**



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Every child deserves a chance to succeed!
¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!

Preschool Program

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.



The Benefits of Preschool

The most important years of a child's development is in the first five years of life. Children who receive a high-quality educational experience, in their early years, develop the skills necessary to succeed in life.

Children who are involved in preschool:

- Develop pre-reading, early writing, and math skills
- Enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop emotional behaviors and social skills

Los Beneficios de la Educación Preescolar

Los primeros cinco años de vida son los más importantes en el desarrollo del niño. Los niños que reciben una experiencia educativa de alta calidad, en sus primeros años, desarrollan las habilidades necesarias para triunfar en la vida.

Los niños que participan en la educación preescolar:

- Desarrollan habilidades en matemáticas, escritura y lectura temprana.
- Mejoran el pensamiento crítico y habilidades en resolución de problemas.
- Desarrollan habilidades sociales y comportamiento emocional.



HSD Preschool

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 970-7550 Phone | (310) 970-7555 Fax



Congratulations, Dr. Sonya Smith!

It is never easy to say good-bye to a valued member of the Hawthorne School District family. It is a little easier when you know that they are moving their career forward and creating new opportunities for themselves. Dr. Smith has been part of this family for over thirty-five years. She began as a parent of students in our district and then moved into a position as an instructional aide at, what was then, Yukon Middle School (now Bud Carson Middle School). She continued her education, earning a teaching credential, an administrative credential, and a doctorate.

She has touched the lives of thousands of students as a teacher at Bud Carson Middle School, an Assistant Principal at Hawthorne Math and Science Academy, and as the Director of Pupil Services for the entire school district. Anyone who has ever met her knows that she is an incredible student advocate, a dedicated employee, and an outstanding individual.

Dr. Smith has been named the new Director of Student Services at the Los Angeles County Office of Education. It is a tremendous opportunity for her and we wish her great success! She will be missed.



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent



Dr. Sonya Smith

¡Felicidades, Dra. Sonya Smith!

Nunca es fácil decir adiós a un miembro valioso de la familia del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne. Es un poco más fácil cuando sabes que están haciendo avanzar su carrera y creando nuevas oportunidades para sí mismos. La Dra. Smith ha sido parte de esta familia durante más de treinta y cinco años. Comenzó como madre de estudiantes en nuestro distrito y luego se trasladó a un puesto como asistente de instrucción en lo que entonces era la Escuela Secundaria Yukon (ahora Escuela Secundaria Bud Carson). Continuó su educación, obteniendo una credencial de maestra, una credencial administrativa y un doctorado.

Ella ha tocado la vida de miles de estudiantes como maestra en la Escuela Secundaria Bud Carson, subdirectora en la Academia de Ciencias y Matemáticas de Hawthorne, y como directora de Servicios Estudiantiles para todo el distrito escolar. Cualquiera que la haya conocido sabe que es una increíble defensora de los estudiantes, una empleada dedicada y una persona sobresaliente.

La Dra. Smith ha sido nombrada nueva Directora de Servicios Estudiantiles de la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Los Ángeles. Es una gran oportunidad para ella y le deseamos mucho éxito. La echaremos de menos.



Any plans for Spring Break? COME JOIN US FOR SOME VOLLEYBALL!



When: Week 1 - 3/29/21 to 4/2/21
Week 2 - 4/5/21 to 4/9/21

Location: LA Galaxy Soccer Center

Times: 9am-11am, 12pm-2pm, 4pm-6pm

Ages: Beginning/Intermediate (7-13)
Intermediate/Advanced
High Performance (12-18)

Price: \$180 - 1 session per day
\$330 - 2 sessions per day
\$470 - 3 sessions per day

Add \$5 per day each day for early drop off (8:15am-8:45am) and late pick-up (until 6:45pm)

Daily temperature checks at door
Masks worn at all times



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School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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As the months pass finally we seem to be within reach of a healthier world. I hope your families have remained healthy and optimistic during this challenging time.

In this issue you will read about remembering Officer McLellan, a

virtual study trip, music curriculum, Project Lead the Way, Wellness Week, and much more.

Be sure to enter the Word Search on page 10 and email the missing word. The contest is open to all ages.

Our next issue is May 5.



Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



LaTima Jones
Principal

Counselor-Support Interns

Bud Carson Middle School is proud and fortunate to have USC social work and counseling interns to help support our students. The interns are involved in facilitating social-emotional lessons in counselor-support classes and working with individual students based on self-referral or targeted support for students to improve attendance or grades.

Both interns are USC students working toward their master's degrees. Stephanie Astudillo is working on becoming a school social worker, and Emily Cano will be earning her master's in educational counseling.

Ms. Cano said that she is "passionate about connecting with students, helping them navigate the challenges they experience, and making school a safe and enjoyable experience for them."

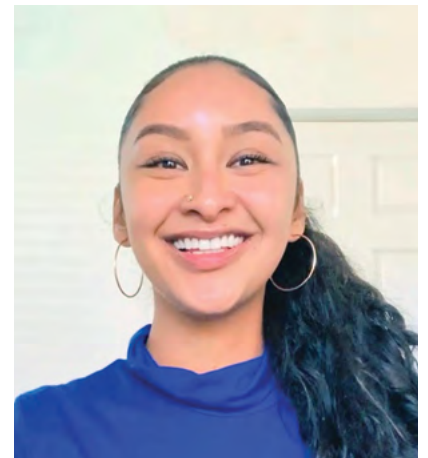
Ms. Astudillo promotes utilizing self-care as a coping mechanism for stress and anxiety. Her dream job is working in schools to help

students navigate their personal development.

The counselor works with interns to create new ways for our students to get support and build connections. Some of the upcoming schoolwide counseling activities are the Huskies Got Talent Digital Showcase and Lunch Bunch groups launching in March. Our goal is to give students the opportunity to connect outside the classroom.



Stephanie Astudillo



Emily Cano

Hawthorne Math & Science Academy

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620 • www.hawthornemsa.org



Esau Berumen
Principal

Wellness Week Recap

By Natalia Ujueta and
Sophia Castellanos, HMSA Students

HMSA Peer Advocates hosted the first-ever HMSA Wellness Week. HMSA Wellness Week's goal was to promote mental-health awareness and provide students with a variety of workshops to appeal to their interests. Each day represented different key elements in maintaining and developing

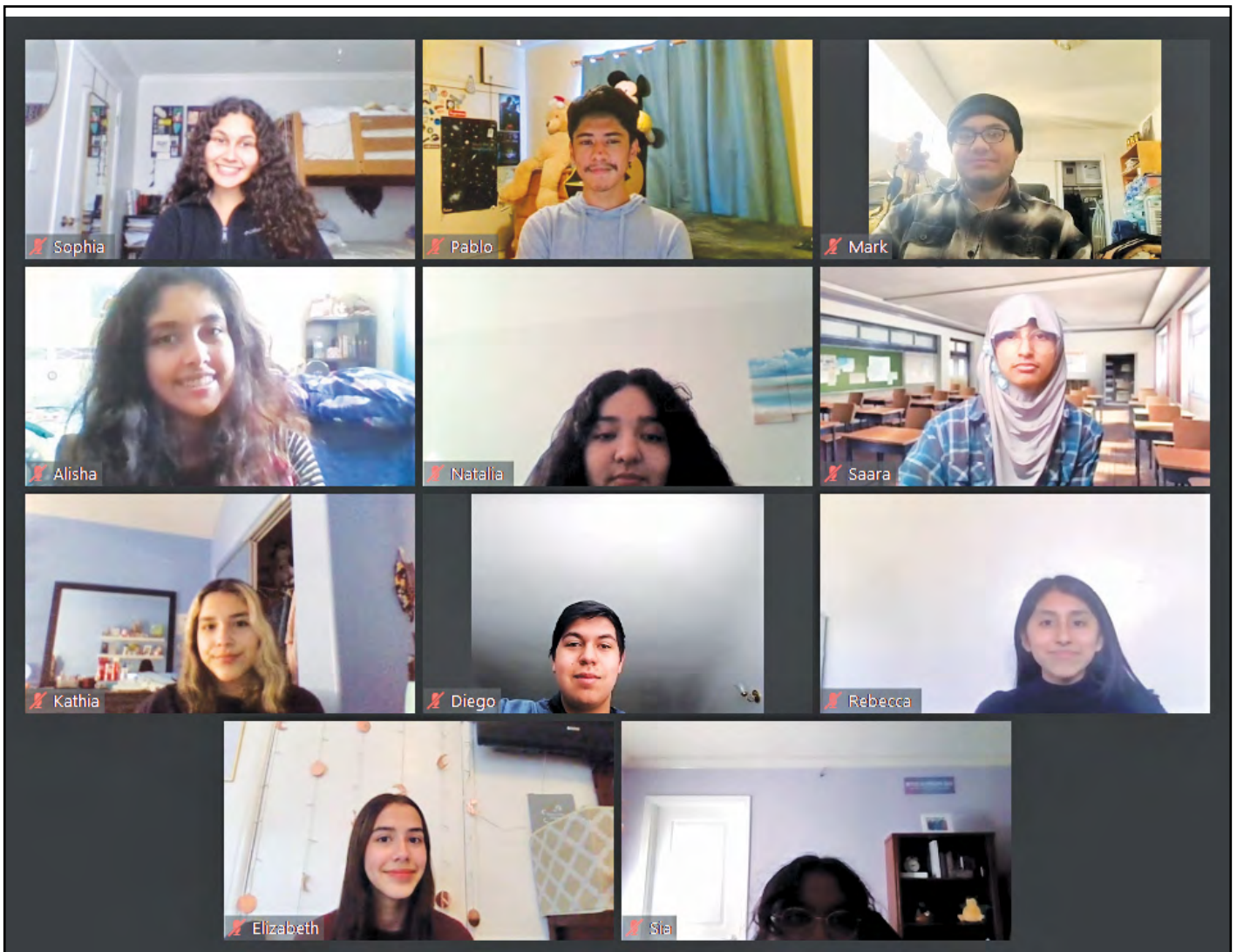
a progressive mindset: Connect, Reach Out, Be Mindful, Keep Learning, and Stay Active.

On Monday, Connect, students were given a brief overview of the week's activities and participated in journaling, along with Get to Know You breakout sessions. In groups of two to three, students were given a question and shared experiences, favorite foods and aspirations for the future. On Tuesday, Reach Out, students listened to guest speakers Stacy Maldonado and Aayad Algabyali

about their careers' progress and how they became leaders in their communities through reaching out. On Wednesday, Be Mindful, students were given the opportunity to partake in workshops to boost productivity, mental-health guidance, and how to deal with procrastination. These workshops provided students with insight to improving habits and developing new ones.

On Thursday, Keep Learning, students engaged with their peers to find new interests, whether baking, serving the community, or starting a business. The student-led workshops were designed to encourage the youth to tap into new creative hobbies.

On the final day of Wellness Week, Stay Active, Ms.Vazquez, our counselor and yoga teacher, facilitated a yoga session for students. Wellness Week is a series of activities that HMSA Peer Advocates hopes to continue to host to bring awareness and a voice beyond the classroom to students.



Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • www.hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Mike Goldstein
Principal

In Memoriam, Officer Chris

Koala Nation lost a beloved family member recently in the passing of “Officer Chris” McLellan on Dec. 18, 2020. It’s an honor to dedicate this article to his memory and to share a few things about Officer Chris that you might not know.

Born in Los Angeles on Feb. 2, 1971, Chris was the second of three brothers and a native of the South Bay. He grew up in Torrance and graduated from South HS, where he played varsity football and soccer. After high school, Chris followed his passion of playing drums in a rock band. With his rebellious attitude and love for punk rock, he and some friends created two garage bands, Topaz and Once There. They played regularly in local establishments throughout the South Bay, where you could find Chris banging the drums and singing backup vocals. He later went on to earn his associate of arts degree from El Camino College and was hired as a security officer in the Hawthorne School District. He served as a Eucalyptus Koala for almost 20 years. He loved his job and took extreme pride in helping and protecting students and staff.



2-time Eucalyptus Classified Employee of the Year, “Officer Chris” shares the moment with his proud mom Janet.

If you knew Chris, you knew he loved art, music, animals, surfing and the Miami Dolphins football team. A few years ago, he volunteered to paint a Koala mural, which remains a focal point of our third-to-fifth-grade outdoor eating area.

We love you and miss you, Officer Chris, and you will always be a Koala!

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones
Principal

HMS Health Education

Health education is being taught at HMS during 2nd trimester. Students at HMS receive health education instruction from Ms. Renee Nixon through their physical education class. Students learn about improving and maintaining a healthy body and lifestyle

through appropriate food choices and exercise; as they learn how to prevent potential illnesses and diseases. Students are assigned PowerPoint presentations containing health related videos followed by assignments that reinforce what they have learned. Students’ health grade is incorporated into their PE grades.

Ms. Nixon has been teaching Health education in the district for 19 years and loves it. When asked what she loves most about teaching Health she says, “Health is about us and what we do

everyday so everyone can relate to staying healthy. I want to teach my students that the decisions they make now can affect them for the rest of their lives; and I want them to live healthy lives.”



Principal Jones and Ms. Nixon at Health & Wellness Night 2019.



FREE GRAB 'N' GO MEALS

For **ALL** children 18 years and under

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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Eucalyptus School
Jefferson School
Kornblum School
Ramona School
Prairie Vista MS

OR

Tuesday & Thursday

Washington School
York School
Zela Davis School
Bud Carson MS
HMSA



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ALONG WITH MEALS FOR YOUR CHILDREN
WHO ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL IN PERSON.**

Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



Josh Godin
Principal

Music Enriches Everyone!

Music makes the world go round! In Jefferson's kindergarten classes, we piloted a music curriculum designed to support oral-language development and phonemic awareness while building knowledge in music.

Lora Cawleti is a Ph.D. student at UC Irvine. She developed and helped coordinate the program for our kindergarten students.

Ms. Lora's music class this year was such a nice surprise! Her lesson objectives and activities were right on target for kindergarten students. The classes really enjoyed her video lessons! They were excited about the songs and the movements that were learned. But what they enjoyed the

most was that Ms. Lora didn't just sing songs or dance with the children—she taught them about music! Our classes learned about steady beat and rhythm. Students learned about singing solos and being part of a chorus. The lessons also tied in to important language arts skills such as rhyming and counting syllables. Many lessons also centered around holidays, making them that much more engaging.

It was great to see the students get excited about music! The students, teachers and parents were able to give feedback on the lessons in order to fine-tune each one to fit the needs of the students and staff. The teachers loved how Ms. Lora integrated language-arts themes from the current curriculum into the musical lessons.

We can't wait to see where music will take our kindergarten students next!

Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



Marisa Stewart
Principal

Kornblum School Misses You!

We are anxiously awaiting for schools to be able to reopen. In the meantime, our staff and students at Kornblum School have been hard at work making Distance Learning the best experience possible for our students.

We miss all of our Kornblum School traditions. We recently did not get to celebrate our 100th day of school. Instead

of dressing like we are 100 years old like we have done in the past we had a materials distribution for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders. That didn't stop our Ms. Nguyen from showing her school spirit at the distribution!

Our Kornblum family will be back together in person just as soon as it is safe. In the meantime we are so grateful for the staff and families who are working hard every day to make the best of the distanced environment.

Kornblum Cardinals CARE!





Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Welcome Mr. Lopez

We welcome psychologist Mr. Cristian Garcia Lopez to our panther staff. Mr. Garcia Lopez was born and raised in South Central. He was an amateur boxer for 9 years and still enjoys the sport's physical training. He attended Cerritos College

and obtained his associates degree in Psychology before receiving his bachelor's degree in Psychology at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He went on to receive his Educational Specialist degree at California State University, Long Beach.



Welcome PVMS Psychologist, Mr. Garcia Lopez!

Mr. Garcia Lopez has experience as a special education paraeducator and as a psychologist for middle and high schools. He enjoys working with adolescents and building strong relationships with the students he interacts with on a daily basis. He looks forward to the opportunity to know families on a personal level, and he looks forward to building social emotional support within the school community.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



Dr. Patricia Ray
Principal

Gift of Bilingualism

Do you want to give your child the gift of bilingualism? The Hawthorne School District offers a quality Two-Way Bilingual Immersion (TWBI) Program at Ramona School. This dual-

immersion program in English and Spanish was established in 1997 and is offered to both Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students. Students learn how to read, write, and speak in both languages. An emphasis on Spanish instruction in the early grades allows English-speaking students ample exposure to the target language of Spanish. Native Spanish-speakers have the opportunity to expand their vocabulary and build a strong base in their first language, enabling them to be more successful as they begin to acquire English orally and later as they transfer reading and writing skills into English.

Not only do our students learn how to read, write, and speak in both English and Spanish but they also learn about Hispanic culture. Each



class studies a Spanish-speaking country in depth, learning about its history, art, food and culture. Each class also learns a Latin dance such as salsa, meringue or cumbia and performs onstage for their families. This end-of-year dance performance occurs in the spring and has been an annual tradition for over 20 years.

Kindergarten registration for the 2021–22 school year opens on March 8. We will also begin accepting TWBI applications at that time. Ideally, we want to have a balance of native English speakers and native Spanish speakers in each class. Students who speak only English may enter the program in kindergarten or first grade. Students entering after first grade must be reasonably fluent in both English and Spanish.

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



Maritza Cruz-Brown
Principal

Washington's "Facelift"

During this time of distance learning, the Washington School campus has been transformed thanks to Measure HS, which was passed by voters in 2018. As we continue to get closer to our return to campus, we have completed numerous projects to improve our school.

While students have been away, we have been very fortunate to have several improvements to our campus. We have had brand new air conditioning units installed in classrooms and other common areas. We have also replaced all flooring throughout campus. The interior of campus has also been painted giving our campus a much needed "facelift."

Although our return to in-person instruction has not yet been determined, you can trust that when the time comes, our school will be fresh and new and ready to welcome you back. We are pleased with these schoolwide improvements and are super excited to share the results of our greatly enhanced campus with our Washington community in the near future.

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



Jessica Moore
Principal

Mission-Focused

The study of California's Missions is almost like a rite of passage for fourth-grade students, and this reality is no exception for York's current fourth graders. For the past several months, Mrs. Bruns' students have been heavily engaged in various forms of integrated study of Mission life in the area of social science.

Her students have had the opportunity to watch interactive videos, compare and contrast presentations on Mission life, and work in collaborative small groups to write questions for a game-based learning platform. Many of the students shared how they had a blast playing the interactive game that tested and reinforced their knowledge of our California Missions.

The teacher also used this unit of study to emphasize key English language arts standards, such as examining Mission life through the different points of view of the individuals living at one, like Native Americans and Spanish missionaries. The students also had an opportunity to enhance their speaking and listening skills by preparing and presenting formal presentations to their classmates about these different points of view.

Mrs. Bruns' class culminated with a virtual study trip of nineteen different Missions, which included a historical account from a Native American ancestor, background information on different bell calls in cases of special occasions and emergencies, and more information about the Spanish missionaries and settlers' knowledge of the land and its sustainability.

One of Mrs. Bruns' students shared that this virtual study trip was amazing, and he remembered how his teacher told the class many of the same things they learned. This connection truly shows that our students were indeed Mission-focused, and that they are building skills to help them become college and career ready.

History Depot



Learn about
World History • US History
Videos • Art • Music
Study Habits

History is about learning and understanding the past. The past does not change, but interpretations do. One cannot erase history and expect to remember the past.

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Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



Matt Rohrer
Principal

Keeping Traditions Alive

Distance learning has presented many challenges to our students, families, and staff. Teachers work hard each day to provide quality instruction and keep our home/school connection alive. At Zela Davis, we want to maintain the core programs that define our school and create strong 21st-century learners.

To support this effort, Zela Davis recently trained three new teachers in Project Lead The Way (PLTW), thus bringing our site total to 25 certified classrooms. PLTW has adapted its instructional model for distance learning to engage students to work collaboratively in the virtual setting to solve open-ended engineering design problems.

During the second trimester, our students have been working on computer science coding modules. We will also continue our tradition of hosting engineers from a local aerospace company during National Engineering Week, using a virtual platform. Ms. Franklin, our STEM coordinator, is organizing activities for our Girls In Engineering and Family Science Nights scheduled in the spring.

Zela Davis strives to provide its students with an education that is comprehensive and relevant.



Milestones and Firsts—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Hawthorne in the subject line.

Entries must be received by April 15, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| BIRTH | HOUSE |
| KISS | RECITAL |
| HIGH SCHOOL | CAR |
| GRADUATION | DISNEYLAND |
| COLLEGE | TRAVEL |
| DATE | AIRPLANE RIDE |
| LOVE | BALLOON RIDE |
| ENGAGEMENT | CRUISE |
| MARRIAGE | FIRST TOOTH |



Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

Leading Literacy



Leslie Zoroya
RLA Coordinator

Storytelling, especially as an oral tradition, is as old as time. Oral storytellers have been looked to as the center of communal life, telling and retelling the history, traditions and knowledge critical to preserving cultures and serving the needs of communities.

Fast forward to the 21st century – storytelling is still alive and well, especially in the information age. Along with blogs and vlogs, video channels and social

media platforms, podcasting is a great way to reach a wide audience of listeners and share not just stories, but contextualized information that can enlighten, entertain and certainly, open hearts and minds.

Our podcast [Leading Literacy](#) began as a way to do all of those things. We were interested in presenting conversations with experts in the field that offer sound literacy research, insights, advice and practice.

Oddly, the pandemic has given us access to experts we might not have otherwise had. [Episode 3](#) with NYU professor and literacy researcher and practitioner Dr. Carolyn Strom was particularly noteworthy in offering strategies for closing the gaps between research and practice, especially in our earliest learners.

[Episode 8](#), with esteemed reading guru Dr. Louisa Moats, was nothing short of a thrill. Her 30-plus years of advocating for the science of reading research has shaped the field of reading instruction in indelible ways. Having her share what works with our listeners gave life to the theory, grounded in solid practice.

Leading Literacy has also allowed us to explore a variety of aspects of literacy instruction. Critical media literacy is an area of utmost concern in this Digital Age. In a time of rampant misinformation, propaganda and just a sheer avalanche of information to shift through, students need to have the skills of discernment. Questioning sources and bias analysis are absolutely essential for students to learn, as they seek to preserve our democracy and participate as informed citizens.

[Episode 7](#) features UCLA professor Dr. Jeff Share, an expert in the field of critical media literacy. His personal journey as both a classroom teacher and photojournalist abroad provides a unique lens through which to offer practical ways to teach these skills.

Our other primary goal with the podcast was also just *to listen*. We wanted to hear the voices of our own LA County teachers and students and give a platform for how they have coped in this unprecedented time and what they have learned about themselves and their work.

[Episode 11](#), Teacher Roundtable, pulls back the curtain on what our teachers on the frontline have experienced as they pivoted from the traditional classroom to distance

learning. It is a compelling story of resilience and hope – one that we felt was sorely needed. An upcoming episode will feature the voices of students in LA County as they share their experiences as well.

Storytelling is a powerful medium and podcasting has been a wonderful way to expand the literacy stories in LA County as we seek to support and enlighten the educators we serve.



Leslie Zoroya is LACOE's coordinator of Reading/Language Arts in the Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services. She is an expert in K-12 reading, writing, listening and speaking; integrated ELD and culturally responsive teaching.