

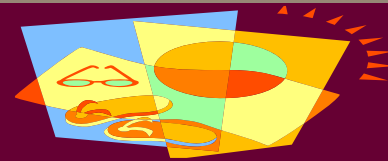


**Richard Vladovic**

Board Member - Representing Board District 7

Gardena, San Pedro, Harbor City, Lomita, South Los Angeles, Wilmington, and the portions of Carson and Torrance

## Dr. V Newsletter July 2010



### A MESSAGE FROM BOARD VICE PRESIDENT VLADOVIC Looking Forward

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...it was the season of Darkness, it was the season of Light..." This quote by Charles Dickens from his novel A Tale of Two Cities accurately captures this past year at LAUSD for me. It was wrought with consistent challenges necessitating difficult decisions, shared sacrifice and negotiations. Of course emotions are involved with decisions that affect our children's and employees' futures. Through these uncertain and sometimes volatile times a source of comfort has consistently been the dedicated, capable and motivated group of august individuals working for this District. It has been a pleasure interacting with people that work so diligently in order to better the lives of children.

I want to thank Linda Del Cueto for her service to Local District 8 and LAUSD. She has a fundamental belief that all children can learn and continuously exemplifies effective leadership. We will miss her greatly. We are also very confident in Michael Romero, who has taken over as Local District Superintendent for Ms. Del Cueto in Local District 8. Superintendent Romero is hitting the ground running and shares very similar leadership traits. I have every hope that he will continue the tradition of excellence that has been exemplified at Local District 8 and look forward to our collaboration in the coming year to create the best environment for our students.

I would also like to thank Board President Monica Garcia and the rest of the Board of Education for my appointment as Board Vice President. I look forward to working in this new capacity to promote comprehensive agendas that ensure every child receives a quality education while still serving my constituents, and standing firm in my commitment to all the students of Los Angeles.

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# DISTRICT NEWS



## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY: "Inspiring Kids to Achieve"

Touring the classrooms at Aurora Elementary School during Junior Achievement Day, one is able to catch a glimpse at the future entrepreneurs and business leaders of America. JA Worldwide is a partnership between the business community, educators and volunteers — all working together to inspire young people to dream big and reach their potential. JA's hands-on, experiential programs teach the key concepts of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy to young people. On June 11, 2010 the Junior Achievement financial literacy program at Aurora Elementary was taught by Comerica Bank volunteers. This partnership offers Aurora students a hands on approach to finances as students learn about business. Banks and community businesses have a vested interest in volunteering for and sponsoring these programs as they have the opportunity to personally mentor the community's future work force. The programs run K-12 and range from introducing Kindergartners to basic personal economic issues to engaging 6<sup>th</sup> graders in activities about the global marketplace.

Second graders at Aurora that day were examining the differences between assembly lines and unit production by making fake donuts and comparing the effectiveness of the two methods. The Comerica volunteers conducting the lessons had been trained by the Junior Achievement program. Junior Achievement also provides all of the classroom materials as well as giveaway items. Comerica Bank has been coming to Aurora Elementary with the Junior Achievement program for the last three years. The first year it was taught in two fourth grade classes which were merged together as a pilot program. It was then brought to the entire school.

If you would like to find out more about Junior Achievement in your area please email [info@jasocal.org](mailto:info@jasocal.org)



## WONDER OF READING

Dr. Vladovic was proud to join the Fries Avenue Elementary School community recently as it celebrated the opening of its new library which was remodeled in collaboration with WOR, a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization dedicated to renovating elementary school libraries. Dr. Vladovic was proud to join with Local District 8 to find the remaining funding necessary to complete the project. Students there now have access to new books, inviting reading spaces and receive special attention from community reading volunteers. The renovation includes new shelving, fresh paint, new carpeting, as well as an amphitheater where students can listen to, and share, stories. The project also includes new furniture, computers and updated electrical work. The ultimate goal of WOR's 3R Program – Renovate, Restock and Read – is to improve reading skills and expand opportunities for students at an early age. and training volunteers to read one-on-one with students. WOR's work continues after renovation as well. For more information, please visit [www.laschools.org](http://www.laschools.org).



## SHAREFEST

In May, the non-profit ShareFest Community Development and volunteers helped materialize a vision inspired by the students of Banning High School in Wilmington. ShareFest's Seventh Annual Workday culminated a year's worth of planning and a week's worth of work by thousands of volunteers. The result was the transformation of Banning's quad area from a muddy hole to a beautiful rendering originally proposed by Banning's fire academy.

In collaboration with our office and Banning High School, they were able to dedicate a completely rebuilt quad area, paint intricate murals and create a new space for an organic garden. Through collaboration with our office, Banning High and the Wilmington community ShareFest was able to head the construction of this rendering signifying the first time LAUSD had ever allowed an outside organization to plan and execute such a big renovation to one of its campuses.

It is one of the most ambitious projects ShareFest has taken on in a single year. It would have cost the School District about \$400,000, but volunteers completed it for a fraction of that price. Now it serves as one more symbol of students' pride in Banning, and the community's pride in them.



**Quad-Rendering**



**Banning Students Enjoying their New Quad**

## LOCAL BUSINESSMAN GIVES BIG BOOST TO BANNING HIGH SCHOOL



Thanks to a \$40,000 donation from local businessman and philanthropist Christer Palsson, owner of International Cargo Equipment, which is based in Wilmington Banning High's band will be marching in style. Having the means to replace the 10 year old uniforms is a badly needed morale boost to the students and Wilmington community during this current budget crisis.

In addition, Mr. Palsson has agreed to donate \$10,000 for student incentives. These funds will be used to encourage students to attend tutoring before and after school and on Saturdays.

Palsson's International Cargo Equipment has awarded 116 scholarships totaling close to \$200,000 since 2004 to college-bound seniors.

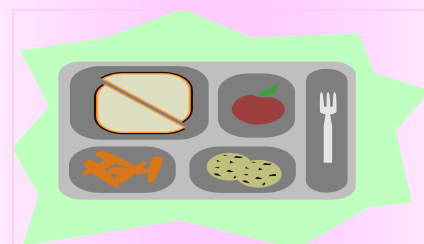
His investment in Banning High and the Wilmington community overall is truly appreciated.

## Food That's In, When School Is Out

*LAUSD to Provide Students with FREE Meals this Summer*

In an effort to ensure the needs of students are met during the summer LAUSD Food Services will offer a Summer Food Service Program to all children between the ages of one and 18. The District is working towards making sure that no students in the community go hungry when schools are closed for the summer.

**For more information about the Summer Food Program, contact LAUSD Food Services Division at 213-241-3366. Call 211 to find the nearest site, or click [HERE](#) for a list of food sites.**



# DR. V Appointed LAUSD Board of Education Vice President

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education, at its regular meeting on Tuesday, appointed Dr. Richard Vladovic as its new vice president serving the seven member board. "I am honored to work with Board President Monica García and the rest of the board members as vice president," Dr. Vladovic said. "Together we will strive to promote a comprehensive agenda that directly benefits LAUSD students and continue to work hard to ensure children receive a quality education. I look forward to working in this new capacity to influence policies that will help our kids, while still serving my constituents in Board District 7, and remaining committed to all the students of Los Angeles." Dr. Vladovic will be responsible for conducting all regular board of education meetings in García's absence. The vice president will also chair special board meetings and take necessary action on time sensitive matters that cannot wait for regular meetings.

Dr. Vladovic is a lifelong educator who has dedicated his career to student progress. His many roles have taken him from teaching social studies at Stephen White Junior High School in Carson, CA, to serving as principal at four schools that faced special challenges including Angel's Gate Continuation High School and Locke High School in South Central Los Angeles. Dr. Vladovic continued his quest for excellence as an administrator in the LAUSD Narbonne/San Pedro Cluster by working closely with school and district personnel to improve student achievement. In July 2000, Dr. Vladovic was selected to head newly-formed Local District K, made up of 72 schools serving nearly 70,000 children. In 2003, Dr. Vladovic was named superintendent for the West Covina Unified School District. Since his election to the LAUSD Board of Education in July 2007, Dr. Vladovic has been a strong advocate for a number of important LAUSD issues including eliminating year round calendars, ensuring health benefits for all employees, personalizing education, championing for the arts, fighting for more environmentally safe schools, supporting drop-out prevention and mentorship programs, and maintaining world class instruction through difficult budget times.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Students Win First 5 LA Public Service Announcement Contest

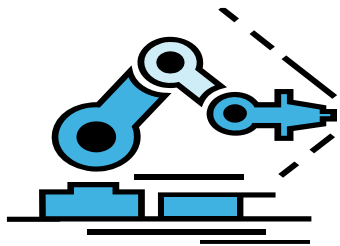
Three students from Board District 7 won the Grand Prize in a video contest sponsored by **First 5 LA Early Care and Education High School Recruitment Program** (ECE HSR). Students enrolled in the HSR Program participated by submitting public service announcement (PSA) videos informing their fellow students of the need for more qualified professionals and career opportunities in the field of Early Care and Education. **Aracely Jiminez and Breanna Stanovic from Narbonne HS and Ingrid Camberos from Harbor Teacher Prep Academy** received the prize for their ["Jobs in ECE" PSA](#).

The HSR Program was started to encourage high school students to consider working with infants, toddlers and preschoolers at a child care facility. Additionally through this program First 5 LA's goal is to learn the best ways to inform, engage and prepare students for a career in ECE.

The First 5 LA ECE HSR Program funds five grantee organizations across L.A. County that work with local high schools and two- and four-year colleges or universities to introduce students to the ECE field. The ECE HSR Program is offered to students in Board District 7 through the Boys and Girls Club of South Bay.

Through the HSR Program students receive general information on the HSR Program and the important role ECE providers play in a child's growth and development. High school students gain first-hand experience in working with young children and discover the benefits of an ECE focused college program. Career and college counseling services are provided as well. Students also take child development classes to receive high school and college credit while learning more about jobs in early care and education.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT...



## WILMINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS

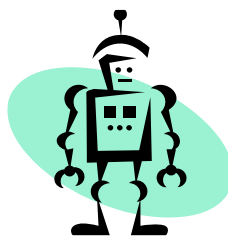
With no previous experience with robotics, a group of students from Wilmington Middle School entered its first robotics competition and received numerous awards as they advanced to the regional competition.

Meeting after-school for only three months, Wilmington's Robotics Team: **6<sup>th</sup> graders Emely Zeledon, Nancy Perez-Castillo, Maritza Ramos, Katia Ascencio, Samantha Melnik, Victoria Defazio and 7<sup>th</sup> grader Jazmin Elloran**, competed at the local and regional level of robotics competitions.

At the Manhattan Beach FLL Qualifier, Wilmington's Robotics Team received the awards for **Best Robot Design, Best Robot Performance, Best Team Work and Best Overall Champion**, which allowed the team to qualify for the Los Angeles Regional Championship. The team received another award for **Best Robot Design** and placed 5<sup>th</sup> in **Best Robot Performance** among the 36 teams at the L.A. Regional Championship.

The team will continue to train after school, with the help of equipment provided by Dr. Vladovic, as they get ready for next year's robotics competitions, hoping to make it to the World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

Under the supervision of their coach, Jose Sanchez, the team is able to succeed in competition as well as the classroom.



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## ITEP SPIRIT AWARDS

This year the **International Trade Program Academy (ITEP)** is awarding two of its advisory board members the **ITEP Spirit Award** for their outstanding efforts and accomplishments. ITEP works with Industry partners in order to help raise students' awareness of career possibilities and options, and demonstrate their vested interest in their children's future. ITEP works with 5 schools in Board District 7 and Community Partners with the belief that career academies can help meet the needs of an expanding business sector while providing exceptional opportunity for economically under-served students.

This year's community partner awardees include **Don Herman and David Thornburg**. Herman is the Area Manager from Shell Pipeline and a member of the Global Business Academy Advisory Board for Carson High School. Thornburg is the Director of Public Affairs from SA Recycling, and is a member of the Global Environmental Science Academy (GESA) Advisory Board for Banning High School.

**ITEP and Board District 7 salute these two men who continue to demonstrate their passion to help and support ITEP's mission of providing job-ready, college-prepared high school graduates.**

Let us Know Your Thoughts!  
Email: [Jessica.Azrilian@lausd.net](mailto:Jessica.Azrilian@lausd.net)

