

Beyond the Bell Branch



January 2010

Beyond the Bell Mission

The mission of Beyond the Bell is to ensure that all children and youth in LAUSD have access to high quality, safe, academic, enrichment, and recreation programs that inspire learning and achievement beyond the regular school day.

Gary Kaloostian is the principal of Jordan New Technology High School (JNTHS), a small public high school of about 250 students, located in south Los Angeles. JNTHS is one of five LAUSD high schools where the after school program is managed by Beyond the Bell/EduCare Foundation. We are grateful to Mr. Kaloostian, his staff, and the inspired faculty for their active involvement with Beyond the Bell after school programs at JNTHS.



What makes you so devoted to your students?

It is the students themselves. My students are the most dedicated learners I have worked with. In addition to their "spirit" for learn-

ing and their dedication, they have "heart!"

How does a smaller, more personalized school like JNTHS make learning more pertinent for students than a larger traditional high school?

At JNTHS, I think our focus has been to meet the learner where they are, and create a personalized program to help them reach those goals. This year, I am adding a system to make this more of a hard reality and less of a fluffy statement. I plan to start with the seniors (I already

have) and interview them to find out what their goals are, where they would like to apply and attend college, and why. When I first joined the team at JNTHS, I noticed the need for interventions for the students and their families. I was able to bring a few strong agencies to quickly meld into our school team and family.

Just these few things accomplish a lot at a small, intimate school. Learning is personalized to meet the needs of students by people who have a vested interest and a moral responsibility, which respects all aspects of the community of learners they serve - and that means everyone!.

How do you see the importance of your After School Program in the students' overall education?

Students all over the world need a place to devote their time and energy to changing their lives and the lives of others. At JNTHS, my students and my staff need the opportunity and the time to extend their academic day into the afternoon.

Had this world been a very different place, my students, staff, and their families would be afforded the opportunity to remain late into the evenings. However, this is not reality. The current after school program, which I believe is an extension of my school and not a separate agency, is the place where the students bring out their talents, discover new interests, share expertise and concerns.

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Los Angeles Unified School District

I have been afforded an amazing team. Ms. Stewart and Ms. Woodruff, along with their EduCare leaders, have provided a complete replica of the day into the late afternoon. Initially, EduCare provided (mainly for 9th and 10th graders) a three-day Achievement and Commitment to Excellence (ACE) Program at UCLA.

The ACE Program made a team out of a group of 9th graders that will be together throughout their high school years. ACE also brought together some upper class-men who had never had the opportunity to bond outside their community.



How do you see intervention and enrichment programs such as EduCare's ACE Program assisting your students?

The programs allow the students to bond, extend their school day and reflect upon the school day in a relaxed atmosphere; learning and practicing things that they are passionate about. The ACE Program afforded my school the opportunity to develop a sense of cohesiveness I never could have imagined in such a short period of time. The ACE Program showed me smiles I had never seen before.

What do you see as the future of your students and your school?

I see my students going to universities and competing with students who are not socio-economically disadvantaged. This is why my school and my team has to work non-stop to constantly encourage and challenge each other, student and staff/faculty alike, to build upon our strengths, reflect upon our weaknesses, change our practices, and share our successes with each other and

anyone who is willing to listen.

What do you think is the biggest challenge(s) facing our students today, and how can we, as educators or the general public, best assist?

We all need to slow down and ask the students every day, "what is it that you need to make your learning valuable to you?"



We all need to realize that as adults we feel frustration and stress. Children feel it and may not have the skills, maturity, experiences, safety nets, education, access to professionals - except

for the interventions we offer here, - and the family support that can assist them. We have to ask and be ready to act. As adults, politicians and the public, we, as individuals, have to remember that these children, all children, are the future!

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I am the luckiest principal around! I have a great team of players who are dedicated to their learners and their craft.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 1 through February 28**
"An Uncommon Journey to Diversity"
The Jewish Community Center at Milken
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills CA 91307
(818) 464-3300
- **February 20 and 27 - BTB District Wide**
Elementary School Basketball Tournaments
- **February 6, 20, 27 - BTB District Wide**
Middle School Basketball Tournaments
- **February 26 - Migrant Education Program**
"Bridges to Success" @ Trade Technical College

Beyond The Scenes

Crime Scene Investigation

All seven of the Beyond the Bell/YS PLUS middle school after-school programs in the South/West region were exposed to a captivating sequence of Crime Scene Investigation courses. The Crime Scene Investigation curriculum was based on “A Crime, Clue and Biotechnology” Curriculum from Iowa State University. This 12 week curriculum included a variety of interactive hands-on activities, role playing, and science concepts.

The design of the curriculum helped the students develop an understanding for what makes everyone physically unique and why. For example, they learned about genetic traits and the three classes of fingerprints which include the “loop,” “whorl,” and “arch” type



patterns. The students also learned about the different characteristics that are used to identify people, and how this can be helpful in a number of ways. These include, but are not limited to, solving crimes and assisting in times of emergency.

Members of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Latent Print Unit traveled to each YS PLUS site to give a presentation to the students in the after school program. The LAPD staff also allowed the students to experiment with two procedures that enabled them to actually collect fingerprints. As a culminating activity for the 12 week program, the students will conduct a mock criminal trial. This activity will highlight the process and proper techniques that law enforcement agencies consistently use to collect evidence that can be used to solve crimes.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Los Angeles Unified School District

LA84 Foundation/Beyond the Bell Branch



Connecting children and youth to their local school and community

www.LA84Foundation.org

www.btb.lausd.net

For the third year in a row, the LA84 Foundation has awarded a grant to the Beyond the Bell Branch. This grant is to keep operating one of the largest free of charge Middle School after school sports programs in the nation. Currently over 15,000 LAUSD students participate in the program every year.

With the LA84 Foundation grant, Beyond the Bell is able to provide 8-week sport leagues after school. Students have the opportunity to participate in flag football, basketball, softball, and soccer leagues at all middle schools in LAUSD.

Congratulations and thank you to the LA84 Foundation and all the Beyond the Bell after school staff for all the hard work and commitment to this program!



Los Angeles Unified School District
Beyond the Bell Branch
333 South Beaudry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017
<http://btb.lausd.net>

Beyond the Scenes

Beyond the Bell /Children Uniting Nations Academic Mentoring Program

Beyond the Bell's partner Children Uniting Nations (CUN) is a proactive non-profit organization created to bring attention to the plight of at-risk and foster youth. The goal is to reach as many children in out-of-home care by offering role-model support, guidance, a sense of community, as well as to promote the importance of receiving an education. CUN also partners with the Department of Children and Family Services and the



Probation Department, to provide community based and school based mentors to these children. In partnership with Beyond the Bell, CUN runs several school based mentoring programs at LAUSD Middle Schools in the South and Central Los Angeles area including Markham MS, Gompers MS, Drew MS, Bethune MS, Muir MS, Foshay Learning Center, and Virgil MS. Mentors provide a minimum commitment of one academic year and 1-3 hours of mentoring per week during the school day and during Saturday School. "Mentoring" includes activities designed to boost students' academic achievement through relationship building and educational support.

At the end of 2009, CUN held two very special events for the LAUSD students participating in the academic mentoring program (as well as other foster youth throughout Los Angeles County). The 11th Annual "Day of the Child" event was held by CUN on November 22nd at the Santa Monica Barker Hanger. Over 50 students from the academic mentoring program attended this special event where they had the opportunity to participate in a carnival. The day consisted of rides, games, food, celebrity presenters and performers, along with prizes for all participants. In December, a Holiday Party was held for the youth and families in the

Academic Mentoring Program and for United Care, Inc. Over 100 students and family members from the Academic Mentoring program participated in the holiday festivities, attended a luncheon, and received gifts.

CUN has been selected as the lead agency for January's National Mentoring Month for the entire County of Los Angeles. CUN is joining forces with several organizations including Big Brothers / Big Sisters of Greater Los Angeles to serve the youth and community of LA during January. CUN will be responsible for media activity, community outreach, and mentor recruitment and referral for mentoring programs throughout Los Angeles. The large-scale effort will result in increased awareness and mentor referrals to programs like the CUN program and others mentoring programs across the county.

Drama Festival at Dodson MS

Saturday, November 7, 2009 marked the **Fall Drama Festival** held at Dodson Middle School in Rancho Palos Verdes. The festival was sponsored by the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California (DTASC). DTASC has been in existence since 1920. Stars such as Kevin Spacey and Sally Field once attended these festivals when they were LAUSD students. Dodson MS competed against 23 middle schools, 3 of them from LAUSD. Participants competed in scene work representing tragedy, comedy, musical theatre, as well as monologues and technical theatre categories.

Over 125 judges who ranged from professionals in Hollywood to local actors and teachers judged scenes that qualified for trophies and plaques. The first place winners will have the opportunity to act out their award winning scenes in Hollywood. Dodson Middle School students earned a third place in the Middle School Division. More than 1,000 students, judges, directors, teachers and parent assistants participated in this event that was educationally inspirational and will long be remembered!