

Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2008

Volume 1, Issue 10



Los Angeles County High School for the Arts

## Principal's Message

One of the earliest identified priorities of the administration at our school has been the formation of the Shared Decision-Making Council (SDMC). The intent of this body is to undertake collaborative decision making with school improvement as its main focus. Comprised of representatives of all stakeholder groups—faculty, staff, administration, arts chairs, students, and parents—this group is poised to undertake some important work this year, to identify school-wide priorities, and to craft a plan of action. This year we plan to address school-wide expectations, attendance policies, homework standards among other items.

In many ways, the process of decision making is much simpler when it falls within the hands of a few—the administration, or the principal, for example. This kind of unilateral process, while often arrived at in a more efficient manner, tends to result in less effective and fleeting outcomes. People may nod in agreement when asked to support a following decision, but then consciously or passive-aggressively undermine this very decision when no one is looking.

A decision-making process that involves more voices may be more cumbersome in operation, but results in longer lasting outcomes. Decisions that are reached collectively allow everyone in the community to see themselves and their perspective in the decision. While each member may not get everything they wish, they can see enough of their point of view to "own" that decision. This collective ownership is the impetus for meaningful school improvement.

We hope that our SDMC will model an effective and collaborative spirit that will infuse and energize all of our work at the school. All members of our community will be touched by this spirit and the entire school will benefit.

*George Simpson*

### Upcoming Events

**Oliver** 11/21, 11/22  
Alex Theater, 216 N Brand Blvd,  
Glendale, CA  
11/21 - 8:00 p.m. 11/22 - 2:00/7:30 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Break** 11/25-11/30  
No School

**Jazz Choir** 12/1  
Supervisor Antonovich Swearing-In  
Ceremony  
10:00 a.m.

**Concert Choir Performance** 12/5  
Arcadia Presbyterian Church,  
121 Alice St, Arcadia  
7:30 p.m.

## Important Announcements

It is with great pleasure that we announce the return of our beloved assistant principal, Anthony Sandoval. Welcome back, Tony!

**Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Arts High!!!**