



# HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD COALITION

*Working to Improve Nutrition in LAUSD*

Spring 2008  
Second Edition

**Contact us!  
Get Involved!**

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**Thinking Outside  
the Lunchbox for  
Healthy School  
Food**

Monday, April 21  
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

*The California En-  
dowment's Center for  
Healthy Communities  
1000 N. Alameda St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

"Join us for a panel discussion about innovative ways to transform the school food system. The conversation will focus on solutions that build upon past success and the necessary next steps to ensure that school children have healthy meals every day."

**RSVP at**  
[www.calendow.org](http://www.calendow.org) (bottom  
right of the page) or call  
(800) 449-4149

## 2 year Anniversary Celebration of the Cafeteria Improvement Motion



Our January 2008 monthly meeting/training was a celebration in honor of the hard work students, parents, teachers, community members and Board Member Marlene Canter's office put into the passing of the Cafeteria Improvement Motion on Dec. 13th, 2005. (<http://caf -la.lausd.k12.ca.us/motion.htm>) This motion helped reduce the sodium, sugar and fat in our school meals. It also began a process to decrease the length of time students wait in line.

Once a motion or law is passed it is up to us, the community, to Make sure it is being implemented. HSFC members are committed to seeing the work through and have been vigilant as to what happens in their cafeterias. For example, parents at Hoover have developed an informational flyer and have distributed them to parents after school and students at Garfield have presented to their classmates about their "School Food Rights".

We came together to celebrate all of our work and to formally thank Mrs. Canter formally, for her continuous efforts to combat childhood obesity and improve the overall health of all LAUSD students. There are many schools where this motion is not being fully implemented. You are the key to making it happen. Let's all work together and have a healthy school environment that will not only benefit the health of our youth, but also improve their academics and the overall well being, of the schools and our communities.

Is the CIC Motion being fully implemented in your school?  
Call us to make a difference in your school food.



## Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meet LAUSD's Chef and participate in a Discussion Group



the Menu and Marketing's Sub-Committee's first Student Discussion Group. The gathering took place in Roosevelt HS and are very appreciative of the school's administration for their willingness to let us use their facilities. The people impacted the most by what happens in school cafeterias are the students and therefore

Youth representing 9 different schools and 4 local LAUSD districts came together on Feb. 20th, 2008 to participate in we are excited that this kinds of activities happen. LAUSD's Executive Chef, Mark Baida and Daniel H. Onofre the Food Services Branch's Marketing Representative, were present to hear students' suggestions and concerns over their school food experiences.

Andrea Giancoli, from Board Member Marlene Canter's office as well as David Binkle, Deputy Director of the Food Services Branch were present as well. The discussion group was facilitated by Sissy Trinh, Director of SEACA-LA, Matt Sharp of CFPA, and Healthy School Food Coalition Organizers, Elizabeth Medrano and Laura Palomares. (continued on other side)



*“Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems, and their ability to learn is enhanced. In addition, those schools that have a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) make more efficient use of their food service department by also operating a School Breakfast Program.”*  
**CA Dept. of Education**  
[www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/sbp.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/sbp.asp)

## In the Legislature

By Matt Sharp, CA Food Policy Advocates [www.cfpa.org](http://www.cfpa.org)

How do votes in Washington D.C., and Sacramento change what’s on school lunch trays in South Central, El Sereno, Pico-Union or East LA? Your state and federal legislators are very involved in school nutrition, making decisions that shape the state of the plate. In this section of the newsletter, we hope to bring you updates about relevant developments in the halls of power.

Why legislation? Congress, USDA and the State Legislature make decisions about the level of funding available to school districts to serve meals, which directly affects the money available to buy food, pay staff and improve facilities.

In the upcoming editions of this newsletter, we will bring you information on opportunities – and threats – to school meals programs and provide you simple steps you can take to make sure our elected officials are more responsive to the needs of the students.

If you’ve opened up a newspaper this winter, you certainly know that the state is facing a \$16 billion budget shortfall, generating proposed cuts from the Governor to the state’s schools. State funds for school meals will be reduced by \$0.02 per meal, if the legislature adopts the Governor’s spending plan. To preserve investments in school nutrition, invite your assembly member to visit your cafeteria. Make sure they see the work you are doing and the resources needed to improve student nutrition programs. But, not all progress has been stalled in Sacramento. Legislators have introduced bills to expand school breakfast (AB1966), remove barriers to offering water in eating areas (AB2704), and to directly connect families receiving MediCAL with free school meals (AB2300). Once the furor over the beef recall settles, legislators make take a careful look at preserving nutrition investments and strengthening cafeteria programs. **Get involved!**

## Continuation of Student Discussion Group

Students participated in a variety of interactive activities, such as a Photo Gallery, the Human Bingo and a Jeopardy Game. The students that who took part of this first of many student discussion groups were drawn mainly from the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) which is a group of leaders who

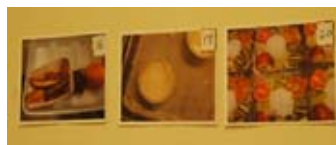
work to improve school food through the implementation of food and nutrition policies and meet monthly. The YAC was started by the HSFC and SEACA-LA with the objective of ensuring that students’ voices are in the forefront of this food access process— contact us to join!

### Did You Know?

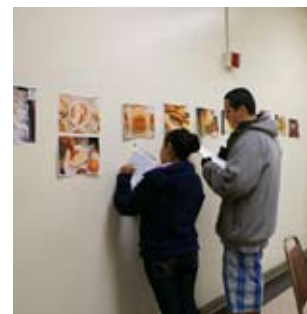
LAUSD joined the American Dietetic Association is celebrating March as National Nutrition Month and the first week in March as National Breakfast Week? This year’s theme is **“Nutrition: It’s a Matter of Fact”**



Chef Baida, explaining how to fill out the Milk taste testing forms.



Getting to talk to each other about their school food experiences during the Human Bingo activity.



Wilson HS students giving their opinions at the Photo Gallery activity.

## Hunger Action Day, 2008

Advocacy: Sounds Good, and Good For You! Trainings Scheduled: March and April

Hunger Action LA and Community Health Councils present:

A FREE Training On How To Educate Your Elected Officials On Hunger and Poverty

We’ll prepare you for speaking with elected officials about hunger & food security and fixing a state budget that prioritizes yacht owners over the poor. You’ll also learn about Hunger Action Day & more!

RSVP with your name, phone number, and which training you will attend to:

Frank Tamborello at Hunger Action LA 213 388-8228 / [frank@hungeractionla.org](mailto:frank@hungeractionla.org)

The Healthy School Food Coalition is a project of the Center for Food & Justice at Occidental College’s Urban & Environment Policy Institute.