

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of School Operations



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Earl R. Perkins
Assistant Superintendent

October 9, 2015

Dear Principals:

The Los Angeles Unified School District has been a visible leader in advocating for LGBTQ-affirming learning and work sites since 1988. October is a busy month for **LGBTQ visibility** – we have LGBT History Month, National Coming Out Day on October 11, Spirit Day on October 15, and Ally Week, October 12-16. Historically, we have hosted events at Beaudry. Three years ago we launched the highly acclaimed *OUT for Safe Schools* campaign. In 2013 we distributed 30,000 *OUT for Safe Schools* badges to identify allies. In 2014 we worked with the Interscholastic Athletics Office to distribute 800 whistles and lanyards in the *Blow the Whistle on Hate* campaign. These campaigns were made possible with the generous sponsorship of the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

The 2015 theme is literature. Stories have intrinsic value. They help teach, influence and bind people together. They are the threads that weave the fabric of the pluralistic society in which we live. Gender stereotypes can limit girls' *and* boys' capacity to develop their personal abilities, and make choices about their lives and life plans. Rigid gender role expectations are associated with the perpetration of bullying.

The 2015 *Read the Stories* campaign is taking place in school libraries with the distribution of bookmarks, lesson plans, tips for creating affirming classroom, and an annotated bibliography of books that are available through our vendor Perma-Bound. The bookmarks are being sent to each library. Schools are encouraged to put together a special display in honor of LGBTQ History Month with the posters and books that are already in their collection.

For information about this event, please contact a member of the organizing committee:

- Judy.Chiasson@lausd.net 213-241-5626
- Julie.Hall@lausd.net 213-241-7652
- Joseph.Green@lausd.net 213-241-7682
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Attached Resources:

- *Gender Doesn't Limit You*, Teaching Tolerance lesson plan (K-5)
- Annotated lists of lesson plans on sexual orientation and gender identity from Teaching Tolerance for elementary and secondary
- Gender Spectrum's Back to School Toolkit
- Annotated bibliography of LGBT inclusive books, K-12 (also posted on <http://www.iltss.org>)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl R. Perkins".

Earl R. Perkins
Assistant Superintendent