



Issue I: June 2009

Equitas Quarterly Review

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SAVE THE DATE
Open House
Fundraiser
August 13th, 5-7pm

For more information:
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Letter from the Executive Director

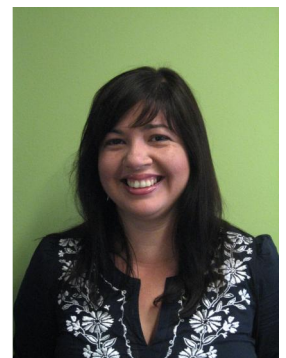
It is my great pleasure to be a part of the team involved in bringing Equitas Academy Charter School to Los Angeles. Growing up, as well as teaching, in Los Angeles, I have seen the need for more choice in the educational opportunities offered in the Pico Union neighborhood. Equitas Academy is committed to the community by providing a structured, achievement-based community that prepares K-5 students to graduate from college-preparatory middle and high schools, four-year colleges and universities.

Our formula to guarantee student academic success is by providing a continuum of support from the earliest grades into middle school. Our school offers (1) high expectations, (2) qualified teachers, (3) college readiness, (4) a family partnership along with (5) a safe and supportive school community.

We are grateful to be part of the community and see ourselves as partners with our families. We will continue to develop community partnerships in support of the ambitious task of educating and ensuring our scholars graduate from college.

Thank you and we welcome
our new scholars this year!

Malka Borrego
Executive Director



We are currently hiring teachers and enrolling kindergarten and first grade students

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EQUITAS ACADEMY
ACHIEVEMENT • EXCELLENCE • CHARACTER

Calendar:

Open House & Fundraiser
August 13, 2009 5-7PM

First Day of School
August 31, 2009



For more information:

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Parent Power:

A Self-Test for Choosing the Best School for Your Child

Choosing the best school for your child is an important start to their educational career. It involves research, planning and a commitment to involvement in your child's education, and ultimately, their path to lifelong learning.

Taking the time to understand your options is the first step in making the best decision for your child's future. Consider asking yourself the following questions when evaluating schools so that you can make the best choice for you and your child:

- **What is important to me and my family?** Start by outlining the key factors that are important to you in finding a school. Whether it is a school that is in close proximity to your work, or one that offers after school care, identify the needs of your child and your family so that you can look for a school that addresses your requirements.
- **Does this school give my child access to academic excellence?** No matter if your child is starting kindergarten or fifth grade, school is the place for them to learn, grow, and thrive. Ask the school leadership and teachers about their approach to academic excellence and their standards of expectation. School is where children become students and learning becomes a life-long skill. Look for a school environment presenting the best opportunities to learn.
- **How engaged is the school administration and staff?** Teachers will interact with your child on a daily basis and become a powerful influence on their development. Inquire about the level of communication and feedback you will have with teachers and administrators. As a parent, it's important to have multiple touch-points with your child's teacher and school officials.
- **Does this school offer a creative and ambitious learning environment?** If learning is exciting and creative, children will be more interested in going to school everyday and motivated in classroom activities. Consider if the school environment challenges your child's creativity and fosters natural curiosity.
- **Do I feel part of a community?** Joining a school is more than textbooks and report cards – it is a place where students, parents and teachers become part of a larger community. A strong school community reinforces a shared goal of academic success. Check into ways you can get involved in the school through volunteering and other opportunities.

Pico-Union Community Spotlight

Just outside of the heart of Los Angeles lies a community vibrant in culture, rich in language and proud with history. Pico-Union – a neighborhood located at the intersection of Pico Boulevard and Union Avenue. It is in this hub of largely Latino and Spanish-speakers Equitas Academy plans to open its charter school doors in the Fall 2009 as a free, public school that will offer a safe and structured school environment, founded by an experienced educator born and raised in this community.

While Pico-Union pulses with culture and pride, the area's residents and families live under great economic pressure in a highly dense neighborhood.

To understand the area's challenges also underscores the need and benefits for Equitas Academy – a school dedicated to raising the expectations and academic standards for Pico-Union's children so they become academic successes and lifelong learners.

Fast facts about Pico-Union:

- 88% of population is Latino
- Median Household Income is \$17,040
- 69% of residents do not hold a high school degree
- Average elementary school serves over 1000 students
- 77% of local schools hold program improvement status, or did not meet federal requirements under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001
- Over 90% of the students are eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program

Statistics from City of Los Angeles, the Almanac & LAUSD

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