

MARCH 1, 2025
QUARTERLY
ISSUE #3

Junior Firefighter YOUTH Foundation NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY NEWS

This year, the Dorsey High School Fire and EMS Magnet program saw exponential growth. We went from one class to three classes. Captain Burton is now the Career Technical Education teacher on record at Dorsey High School. This makes him the only firefighter, retired or active to teach in the LAUSD school system's Fire and EMS Magnet program among all four high schools. We have over 50 students enrolled in our program this year. This is most students we have ever had enrolled in the Dorsey Fire and EMS Magnet program.

The additional courses taught are Introduction to Firefighting Operations and Introduction to Emergency Medical Response. The Physical Education class is still operating on Mondays and every other Tuesday where the students practice marching and facing movements.

This will be our third-year marching in the annual Kingdom Day parade in the Crenshaw District. The students prepare every week marching and singing cadence chants. The community always enjoys seeing the students marching in the parade. Many community members on the parade route shout to us stating they went to Dorsey or they didn't know there was a fire academy at Dorsey. Our students have become the pride and joy of the community!

In this edition of our newsletter, we will showcase the images of the various guest speakers and student activities from this past year.

Anytime you see someone more successful than you are, they are doing something that you aren't.

~Malcolm X

A WORD FROM CAPTAIN BURTON

Greetings once again to all of our friends and supporters. Happy 2025! Last year was a very good and productive year for the Foundation. We embarked on a new project that we call the "School to Fire Department Pipeline". This is a career trajectory program where we will start our educational programming with a young person in the 4th grade and stay with them all the way through middle school and into high school. We would like to see them eventually come on the fire department as a firefighter.

The Foundation has identified three local elementary schools where we will launch our Junior Fire Cadet Program for 4th and 5th grade students. This will be Phase I of our School to Fire Department pipeline project. The elementary schools we have selected are Coliseum Street, Baldwin Hills and 42nd Street. These schools are feeder schools to Audubon Middle School. We will continue their journey into Audubon where we will conduct Phase II of our School to Fire Department pipeline project. After the student graduates from Audubon, our hope is for them to continue their high school education at Dorsey High School where they will be enrolled into the Dorsey High School Fire and EMS Magnet program. Once the student reaches the age of 16, they will be eligible to join the Los Angeles Fire Department's Cadet program. Fire station 94 in the Baldwin Village/Crenshaw District is where the Cadet post is located. Once the student graduates from Dorsey, they will be ready to become a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). They will also be encouraged to continue with their Cadet experience where they will be able to ride-along with the fire companies and spend countless hours inside the fire station learning the job firsthand. They will also be supported as they prepare for the CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test). Our hope and goal for the student is for them to become a professional firefighter hired by one of the local Los Angeles area fire departments.

Now this seems to be a very ambitious project, but this is what we want and the results benefit the youngsters from our community here in the greater Los Angeles area. We are very clear that it is up to us to create pathways for our students to be successful. The Los Angeles Fire Department provides the Cadet program and supportive staff and resources. The L.A. Unified School District provides the schools with progressive staff, leaders and the students. The Stentorians organization provides support through funding and advocacy. And the Foundation provides firefighters and community members to operate the program. The synergy of all four entities equates to a win-win situation! This project is underway right now and we could use financial support, community resources and staff to make it work! Contact us if you would like to assist with this project.

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BALDWIN HILLS

The 2025 Baldwin Hills elementary school concluded their first Junior Fire Cadet program. The program started out with 25 students. After 5 weeks, only 16 were able to complete the program. The traditional last day "Jump Rope" contest was won by Cadet Ruth. As always a \$50.00 cash prize is awarded to the last student standing. The students were able to learn about firefighters, how to avoid self destructive behavior and physical fitness. They also learned how to march and sing cadence. On the last day, each student got a chance to lead the marching and cadences.

We would like to thank Baldwin Hills School Principal, Dr. Angela Killens for her leadership in allowing us to bring the Junior Fire Cadet Program to the school. We also thank Dr. Jackie Walker and Miss Jheri Murdock for being there every week supporting our efforts. And a special thank you to Baldwin Hills school teacher, Ms. Stacey Joy, a long standing supporter and friend to the Foundation for introducing our initial presentation to the school.



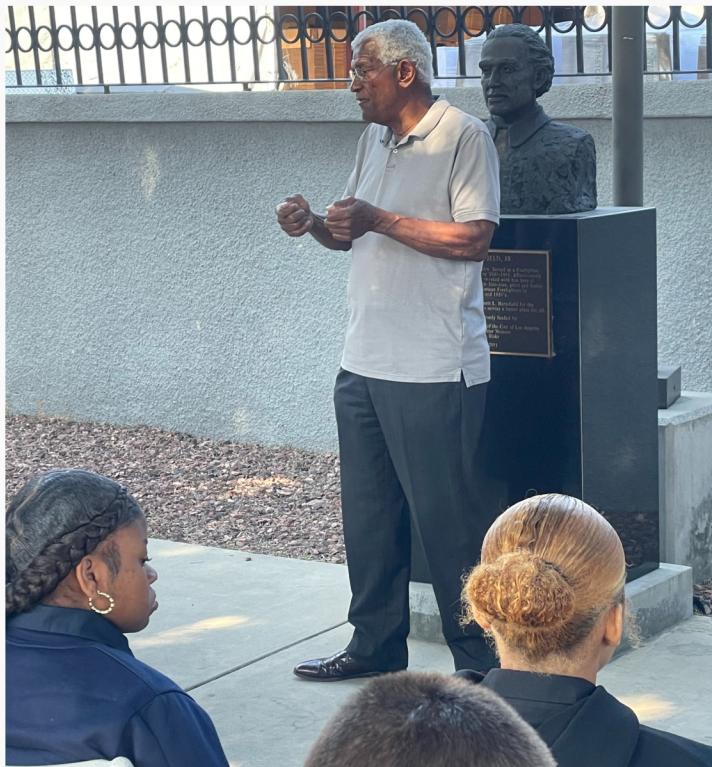
Left to right, Dr. Angela Killens-Baldwin Hills school principal, Dorsey High Cadet Deputy Chief Ashton, Dr. Jackie Walker, Baldwin Hill School Community Representative, Dorsey High Battalion Chief Tristyn, and Captain Burton.



Baldwin Hills School Junior Fire Cadets Marching

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Retired LAFD Captain Kendall McCarthy speaking to the Dorsey Students during their field trip to the African American Firefighter Museum.



L.A. Fire Commissioner Genethia Hudley-Hayes speaking to Dorsey Fire Students during their visit to the Stentorian Center. Commissioner Hudley-Hayes is a Dorsey Alumnus.

DORSEY HIGH

On Thursday, February 20, 2025, 36 of our Dorsey High School Fire Cadets took a field trip to the African American Firefighter Museum. They were greeted by Museum President, retired LAFD Lead Firefighter/Paramedic Michelle Banks with a welcome message. Retired LAFD Fire Captain Kendall McCarthy (Dorsey Alumnus) spoke to them about his journey becoming a firefighter. He also spoke to them about his experience at Dorsey as a student and baseball player, and his time as a model and actor on his off days.

The students were able to tour the museum and ask questions. The trip took them to their next stop which was the Stentorian Center. They were greeted by LAFD Stentorian President, Captain Robert Hawkins and LAFD Fire Commission President, Genethia Hudley-Hayes.

The Stentorians hosted a lunch for the Students and they were able to see the Center and participate in a few minor training events. LAFD Firefighter and Junior Foundation Board member Cliff Taitt provided the students with a tour of the Center.

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Baldwin Hills School Junior Fire Cadets participating in their weekly Physical Fitness exercises.



L.A. City Fire Stentorians President Robert Hawkins addressing the Dorsey Fire Students



Dorsey Fire Students during their visit to the Stentorian Center.
Photo taken by retired LAFD Inspector Robert Gladden, Dorsey Alumnus

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Cadet Ruth won the Jump Rope Contest and a cash prize



Baldwin Hills Junior Fire Cadet group shot, 2025



Dorsey High Students at the Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Kingdom Day parade.

Junior Firefighter Youth Foundation

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