

For Immediate Release MAYOR OF LA, ERIC GARCETTI, VISITS SKID ROW LEARNING CENTER

School on Wheels students were treated to a surprise visit from Mayor Garcetti yesterday
LOS ANGELES – October 18 2017



Laurence, 8, talking to the mayor about digital learning



Mayor Garcetti taking questions from the students at the Skid Row Learning Center

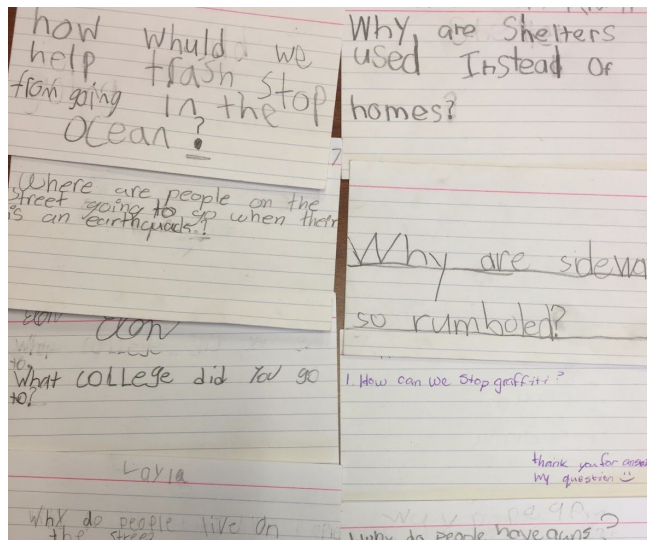


Layla, 7, asked Mayor Garcetti why there were people living on the streets



Elijah, 12 introducing the mayor to his online tutor who was watching from Atlanta, Georgia

Mayor Eric Garcetti visited School on Wheels' Skid Row Learning Center (600 E 7th Street, Los Angeles) to find out more about the nonprofit and how they are helping homeless children succeed in school. The children knew that someone from the city was visiting and had prepared questions in advance but did not know that it was their mayor who would be the VIP visitor!



Questions from students to the mayor... How do we stop trash going into the ocean? Where do people that are on the street go when there is an earthquake? What are sidewalks so [sic] rumbled? How can we stop graffiti? Why do people have guns? And why do people live on the streets?

When asked by a student "Why are shelters used instead of homes," the mayor said, "We want shelters to be a place where people go in an emergency, not where you grow up."

Sadly for the students at School on Wheels, many are growing up in shelters. The mayor offered hope by saying that they were building extra housing and that homelessness was his priority, but he noted these things take time.

The mayor also talked to the children about libraries, parks, water and the 2028 Olympic games. He told the students that all sports for kids would be free in the city and that they could be the next Olympians.

After a tour of the center, the mayor was interviewed by local media and was then whisked away for his next appointment.

"The kids, staff and volunteers at the center were thrilled to have met the mayor," said Catherine Meek, Executive Director. "Our students are really smart and they kept him honest with the questions they asked him!"

To learn more about School on Wheels, please visit: www.schoolonwheels.org

ABOUT SCHOOL ON WHEELS: School on Wheels, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 by Agnes Stevens, a retired teacher. Today, hundreds of volunteers work one-on-one with children whose homelessness prevents them from receiving the academic stability and help they desperately need. The mission of School on Wheels is to enhance educational opportunities for homeless children from kindergarten through twelfth grade. The goal is to

shrink the gaps in their education and provide them with the highest level of education possible. The program spans six counties in Southern California, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura, as well as a learning center in Skid Row. PRESS CONTACT School on Wheels, Inc. Sinead Chilton 805.641.1678
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