

What Happened to the Little Red Schoolhouse? (6/7/2012)

As everyone knows, there is a budget crisis in California that is rocking the foundation of public schools throughout the state. Coupled with the pain of having to reconcile your finances with your desire to give your child the best education, a government budget crisis can add to the personal crises experienced by many families. As the second largest public school district in the nation, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is looking at a \$300 million deficit for the upcoming school year. That means likely cuts -- teachers, programs, after-school care, special needs, transportation -- and bigger class sizes, all of which means diminishing your child's education and his prospects for future schooling and earning potential.

It's like having the most beautiful lamp [your child] as the centerpiece of your house, but without a bulb to show the world just how beautiful.

What's more, the lower the poverty rate in a particular district, the lower the allocation of state and federal education dollars. Which means, other schools that already receive very little to begin with, could see their allocation stripped away. Schools like Wilbur Elementary in Tarzana, Lanai Road in Encino and Carpenter Avenue in Studio City are all in jeopardy of losing significant funding. These otherwise decent public schools are in jeopardy of becoming stripped-down versions of themselves, to the detriment of our children. And, best efforts by administrators and parent organizations to ensure that quality is upheld are unfortunately not enough to compete with the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars.

For generations, the little red schoolhouse was the icon of a local, quality education. We all know that public school as a quality choice is not what it was forty years ago, but now we're facing the reality that it's not what it was two years ago or even one year ago.

Schools like Woodcrest School in Tarzana exist to provide the education that our children need to excel in life. Private schools in Los Angeles can be priced exorbitantly or can be ultra-competitive, or both. Public schools suffer from overcrowding, loss of personalization and lack of core curricula and programs, both academic and character-building. Woodcrest was founded on the promise of providing the highest quality elementary education at half the cost of most other LA private schools, and they've been fulfilling that promise for over forty years and sending their students to the top private middle and magnet schools throughout LA. What's more, with class sizes that max at 20 students and a wide breadth of programs, academic events, and leadership education, Woodcrest turns out some of the finest, most well-rounded citizens of tomorrow.

For information on Woodcrest School, or to schedule a private tour with the school's Executive Director, John Khouri, call 818-345-3002.