



Chapter 17: Democracy in Action

This week, students and adults across the U.S. made their voices heard on the issue of gun violence. While the forms of civic engagement and specific demands varied from region to region, a single, poignant message resounded throughout the nation: ***enough is enough—more must be done to keep our schools and communities safe.***

The students, employees, and schools of L.A. Unified contributed admirably to these discussions through thoughtful and passionate actions, which called for solutions to gun violence and commemorated the victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Here is a brief snapshot of what we observed:

- Some students chose to “*walk up*” to peers they did not know to spread kindness and forge new relationships.
- Teachers and administrators promoted *17 acts of kindness* on campus (view a “[kindness grid](#)” created by Charnock Road Elementary teacher Courtney Young and a “[kindness bulletin board](#)” posted at Crescent Heights EEC).
- Schools held a variety of student-led assemblies, speaking forums, and other activities (view [photos](#) of activities).
- Central office staff assembled 17 rose-adorned chairs to commemorate the Parkland victims (view photos of the [chairs](#) and [signs](#) that were assembled).
- The Board of Education approved a Resolution calling upon lawmakers to accelerate efforts to prevent gun violence.

This is democracy in action. We are a nation of, by, and for the people, and it remains our collective right—and awesome responsibility—to help shape the course of our country by expressing ourselves on issues that are front and center.

Thank you for your partnership and ongoing efforts to create safe and enriching learning opportunities for our students. You are truly first-in-the-nation employees.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Vivian Ekchian
Interim Superintendent

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