

**PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL REPORT
October 15, 2013**

Fire alarms and school/classroom safety:

Since the start of the 2013-14 school year, the fire alarm has sounded and the school has been evacuated six times. Two of these incidents resulted from liquids in sensors, two resulted from dust from construction/maintenance projects, one resulted from popcorn burning in an unattended microwave oven in a classroom, and one resulted from a basketball hitting a sensor during PE class. While it is critical that the school respond in emergency situations, frequent evacuations are disruptive to the educational environment. PCHS is addressing these issues by limiting construction/maintenance projects to non-instructional hours. We are also examining the feasibility of banning popcorn and removing microwave ovens from classrooms as specified in LAUSD facilities policy bulletins. The PCHS safety team with UTLA representation will conduct a classroom safety walk-through with the fire department personnel on the October 17 as part of the Great CA Shakeout earthquake preparation drill and incorporate any recommendations into the development of a PCHS safe classroom policy. During the Great CA Shakeout all Californians should be prepared to practice a drop, cover, and hold drill.

Steps taken to address concerns related to potential hacking of iPads:

Tech supervisor Donna Mandosa sent out the following information to staff and parents in response to questions about potential hacking concerns:

“Some of you may be curious to know the recent LAUSD iPad hacking story connects to our iPad program.

Here’s an update for those that are interested:

-We pushed out age restrictions to all PCHS iPads as part of our deployment. That means that students can only access content appropriate for their age. (We restrict access to PG-13 movies, TV-14 shows, 12+ apps, and non-explicit music).

-Yes, it is possible for students to remove the Mobile Device Management profile from their iPads and thus release the device from age restrictions. (This is the ‘hacking’ that students at Roosevelt did to get around the web filtering).

-If students’ remove the MDM profile, their device is flagged and I contact the family to request that the child bring the iPad in to J123 for re-enrollment.

-Un-enrollment can happen accidentally with the update to iOS7, but if it is done intentionally it would be a violation of our AUP which forbids “disrupting any computer system performance”. In such circumstance the school’s disciplinary team would take appropriate action.”

Pali STEAM Shop/Makerspace:

A stakeholder group met to discuss the development of the Pali STEAM Shop/Makerspace for second semester. Participants included Ellen Sloan - Pali parent and Education Foundation representative, Blaine Gorelik - Tech Arts Department Chair, Karina Masihi - Web Design teacher, Karyn Newbill – Tech arts teacher, Monica

Iannessa – Tech Arts Department administrator, Pam Magee, and Donna Mandosa – Tech Supervisor. A classroom has been identified (J123) and the group is working on developing funding resources and curriculum for the innovative program.

Fundraising Meetings:

The PCHS Fundraising Committee met to plan for the upcoming Holiday Boutique. A joint PCHS fundraising meeting was held with representatives from Education Foundation, Booster Club, and PCHS to open dialogue regarding the school's fundraising needs and focus. The groups agreed to a follow up meeting in the near future to establish a fundraising calendar and to continue the dialogue about effective fundraising planning and promotion. A follow up All Pali Fundraiser Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23 at 3:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to establish a calendar of fundraising events. In the future these meetings will be expanded to include representatives from the Pali organizations with 501.c.3 status.

Community Meeting:

Norman Kulla, Senior Counsel for Council member Mike Bonin has been working with PCHS to create a venue for the school and community to discuss concerns related to noise generated from events at the high school. Pacific Palisades Community Council Chair Barbara Kohn has agreed to host the community meeting at the council meeting in the Pali Library Community Room on the evening of October 24, 2013, which will meet from 7-9 pm.

PCHS presenting at upcoming conferences:

Pali representatives Chris Lee, Monica Iannessa, Allison Holdorff Polhill and Pam Magee will be presenting on the transformation of Pali's school governance at the Charter School Development Center Leadership Conference in San Francisco on October 28-29.

Other school groups are submitting presentations for upcoming conferences including Computer Using Educators (CUE) and the Academic Integrity Task Force (AITF).

Common Core State Standards Legislative update from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA):

Governor Brown signed AB 484 (Bonilla).

This bill transitions California's assessments from STAR to a new system aligned with the Common Core State Standards. AB 484 has generated controversy because it eliminates the current STAR testing for grades 3-8 and grade 11 that is required for federal accountability. The CDE is pursuing a federal waiver of those requirements during this transition phase, but there is some question as to whether the request will be granted given the waiver being sought is broader than what Education Secretary Arne Duncan has publicly said he would support. One possible result is that the federal waiver will be denied but that California's temporary non-compliance will not trigger a withholding of federal funds

**Student Support Services:
Independent Studies**

Pali has launched a new Independent Studies program with the enrollment of six students. Several students are committed to beginning the program at the start of

second semester. Program coordinator Randy Tenan-Snow will oversee enrollment, compliance with state laws, and progress of students desiring a full time independent study program. Curriculum is provided through online classes meeting A-G requirements to the greatest extent possible in a blended model. Student course enrollment is coordinated through the counseling office. Student course enrollment is coordinated through the counseling office. IS students may enroll in Pali electives with counselor and IS studies coordinator permission. Students are required to be at PCHS to participate in seminars, teacher meetings and to work on classes for no less than six hours per week. Instructional support will be provided by the coordinator and mentor/tutor (employed initially two days per week for a total of seven hours). Students may access support daily between 8am and 11:30am in Ms. Tenan-Snow's classroom U109. For science courses, students are required to participate in labs as scheduled at least every other week. Labs will be provided by an appropriately credentialed teacher. The program will be expanded to include additional support, seminars, hands on projects as ADA increases.

Special Education

PCHS is in the process of interviewing potential teachers for the special day program/alternate curriculum class. Some parents met last week with the Director of the Charter Operated Programs to share concerns and explore options for our students. Twelve initial assessments have been completed and an additional 12 are either scheduled or pending parent consent to assess. There are five open slots in the Resource Specialist Program.

PCHS is also exploring grants provided through the Charter Operated Programs Unit to expand and enhance services for our students with disabilities.

Section 504

504 Coordinator John Tomasi is responding to requests for 504 plans. There are currently 84 active plans and approximately 20 requests being evaluated for plans.

College Board/ACT Accommodation requests

The Student Services Office processes requests for accommodation on tests administered by the College Board/ETS and ACT. The office processes 30-40 requests annually.

EDP Activities -

Progressive Education Network Conference at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles

Theme "Play Hard: The Serious Work of Keeping the Joy in Learning" - October 11-12

Guest speakers included Madeline Levine, author of *Teach Your Children Well*; Paul Cummins, Crossroads School founder, and Angela Davis, activist, educator, scholar, and writer. A broad range of workshops highlighted common core state standards implementation, Council in schools, addressing needs of students with learning differences, systems thinking, building positive collaboration, advisory programs, and student centered project-based learning.

CA Charter Schools Association Fall Regional Meeting - Thursday, October 17

Due Process Training – Monday, October 13

Charter Operated Programs Executive Council Meeting – Thursday, October 10

UCLA Charter School Symposium presentation and participation - Saturday,

September 28