



# La Cañada Unified

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## Message from the Superintendent

by James Stratton, Superintendent



We come to the close of this school year with a deep sense of uncertainty. Every potential source of new income seems to be immediately countered by further devastating cuts.

A case in point is the interplay between federal stimulus dollars and the additional state budget reductions announced by the Governor. Just as we were informed that we would receive about \$1.93 million over the next two years in combined federal IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and SFSF (State Fiscal Stabilization Fund) money, we also learned that the Governor's May Revision budget includes additional per pupil cuts for the current 08-09 year and 09-10 and future years equaling a combined total loss of \$1.8 million for the same two years as those containing the federal dollars. And when the federal dollars stop, the state cuts continue. One hand gives a little; the other takes a lot.

After accounting for the federal dollars, the current and future state reductions, the spending down of all our reserves and the implementation of various cost saving measures already planned, the district will be over \$4 million in the hole by the year 2011-12 and over \$9 million in the red by 2012-13. A successful parcel tax election would bring in about \$3.6 million by 2012-13 and cut that year's overall deficit to just under \$6 million.

Many parent volunteers throughout the community are working very hard to ensure the passage of Measure LC (the parcel ballot), and we are all incredibly grateful for their spectacular efforts. Various staff members are also serving on the Measure LC steering committee and/or working the phone banks, and we are similarly appreciative of their assistance. It is important to remember that a successful parcel tax election will bring in urgently needed additional funds that cannot be touched by Sacramento, but it will not solve our budget crisis.

We also continue to need unlimited flexibility in how to use categorical funds and when to spend money on new textbooks. We need fewer testing mandates and no financial penalties at all for exceeding class size reduction ceilings within reasonable limits. And at some point, rather than proposing shortened school years and less instructional time for students, we need our elected officials to radically re-structure the budgeting process and its two-thirds super majority rule and to

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LC Newsline

# The Newsboard

By Joel Peterson, President



As we end our 2008-09 school year, we can reflect back and see that we have had a very successful year. Our students, teachers, and staff have performed and achieved in a superlative manner. Achievements span the full spectrum of academics, arts, and sports. Examples include having the largest number of National Merit Finalists in our history – 19 – out of about 395 seniors; roughly 5 per cent of the senior class.

This is an extraordinary achievement. About 1.4 million high school students take the SAT. The number of finalists is around 15, 000 or about 1 percent. Statistically, our senior class should have had about 4 Finalists. Instead, our Finalist number is 500 percent higher than what one would statistically expect. But these sorts of facts and achievements have become almost routine for our schools. We truly are blessed with talented children, dedicated parents and teachers, and focused administrators, all supported by a caring and generous community.

With the non-approval of the May 19th state special election for measures related to the budget compromise, we face greater financial and resources uncertainty than ever in our district's history. The Board and the Administration is working hard on evaluating different budget scenarios and how best to minimize the funding cuts' impact on our students' education.

But as we wrestle with tough issues and decisions now and in the foreseeable future by events not of our local making, I want to encourage all of us not to lose sight of the good and often extraordinary news that happens everyday, in nearly every class, at every one of our schools. It is in the hopes of sustaining this record of achievement, exceptional progress, and good news that we ask our community for its continued support as we seek the right balance of solutions to keep the excellence our children deserve and deliver.

The Board wishes all our school families a happy and safe summer break and we look forward to another successful year, despite our challenges, next year.



Helpful Links from  
the LCUSD website:

Governing Board  
Meeting Schedule

<http://www.lcusd.net/board>

LCUSD Master  
Calendar:

<http://www.lcusd.net/cal>

LCUSD GATE  
Advisory Council

<http://www.lcusd.net/>

LCUSD Bond  
Oversite Committee

[http://www.lcusd.net/  
facilities](http://www.lcusd.net/facilities)

## LCHS Summer School

LCHS summer school runs from Thursday, June 25th through Friday, July 31st. Friday, July 3rd is a holiday. To obtain a full year's class credit (10 units), students must attend both morning periods for the entire six-week session of summer school. Each unit of credit requires 12 hours of instruction. For 10 credits, this totals 120 hours or 26 days.

Most students signed up for summer school as part of their fall registration and the rosters are posted outside the registrar's office. While summer school is primarily intended for remediation for students needing to make up deficient credits or to retake courses, there are some opportunities for students to take classes to advance. Students may only take one year-long course or two semesters. Students who are interested in summer school should speak with their counselor. A number of spots are reserved for students who fail courses and counselors will identify and notify those students once final grades are posted.

### Summer School Daily Schedule

- Period 1      7:50 – 10:10 a.m. (140 minutes)
- Break            10:10 – 10:25 a.m.
- Period 2      10:25 - 12:45 p.m. (140 minutes)

Each class is 2 periods and students must attend both to earn full credit.

### Course Offerings

English 1-P	Geometry P
English 2-P	World History P
English 3-P	American History P
Algebra 1B-P	Econ/Government P
Algebra 2-P	

### Important Summer School Information:

- Summer school classes progress faster than during the regular school year, so consistent attendance is very important.
- There are two 13-day semesters: The second semester starts on July 15th. Students who are making up just one semester can just attend one summer semester, but it must be the one that they are making up. For example, if a student is repeating the second semester of a class, she would start on July 15th, or if a student is just repeating the first semester of a class, then she would just attend for the first 13 days.
- US Government is a semester class, as is Economics, so if students are absent more than one-and-a-half days in a semester of either of these classes, they will be dropped from the class.

There is a very strict attendance policy for summer school that requires that a student be dropped from the class if they accumulate more than three absences during the six week session, or 1 ½ days during a single semester three-week session. Students cannot miss more than three days of the six-week summer school course FOR ANY REASON. In addition, four tardies equals a one day's absence.

# LCHS Fall Registration

La Cañada High School Fall registration is scheduled for August 20-25. This year, the school will conduct a full four day registration prior to the start of the fall semester where students will come to the school on their designated day to turn in their documents, get their textbooks, parking permits, lockers, PE clothes, class schedules, and see their counselor if necessary. All LCHS families will receive a letter in August with detailed instructions on downloading the required forms and how to participate in the process. We realize that some students may have circumstances that prevent them from attending their scheduled registration appointments. To ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive their schedules prior to the first day of school, parents and/or family members may, during the student's scheduled time, turn in the forms and pick up student schedules in place of the student. Additionally, schedules will be available for pick up in the IRC on August 26th, 27th, and 28th, provided the completed forms are submitted. Outstanding obligations such as library fines or unreturned textbooks must be cleared before schedules are picked up. Furthermore, counselors will not be available on the 26th -27th due to new student enrollment appointments and staff meetings. It is important that students attempt to go through the registration process in person at the scheduled time so that, if necessary, they can see their counselor, get their student picture ID, and pick up their textbooks prior to the first class.

## REGISTRATION DATES

Seniors.....Thursday, August 20, 2009

Juniors.....Friday, August 21, 2009

Sophomores...Monday, August 24, 2009

Freshmen.....Tuesday, August, 25, 2009

- Kevin Buchanan, LCHS Assistant Principal





## Science Club at PCY

PCY students have benefited this year from a science club which was organized by Pamela Raymer-Lea and involves many JPL people. At PCY, several different sub “clubs” were organized, each club studying a particular type of science such as astronomy or geology. The groups met after school and studied under the tutelage of the JPL employees who volunteered hours of their time to inspire the student interest, to help them research the topics and to visit important places such as the La Brea Tar Pits and the Natural History Museum. It is an excellent opportunity for our students to go to these places with a guide who is an expert on the topic, and who does vital scientific work for our country and the galaxy.

All three of the elementary sites, as well as LCHS, have long benefited from our close ties to JPL. JPL parents have been guest speakers, have run astronomy nights and have arranged special JPL field trips. LCUSD educational programs are richer because our JPL families are so generous with their time and talents. We are extremely lucky as a community to have the Jet Propulsion Lab in our city and to have these talented parents provide scientific lessons and activities for the students.

- Donna Robinson, PCY Principal



## Spectacular Spring Sports Season

Legendary Quarterback Bart Starr once said, “Athletic competition clearly defines the unique power of our attitude.” This quote signifies the success achieved by a number of La Canada High School athletic teams this past spring.

The La Canada High School Swim and Diving team clearly proved the power of a positive attitude when the team achieved historic success. This past season LCHS was the first high school in the history of California athletics to win both the swim and diving CIF titles four years in a row. John Geyer, who plans to dive for USC, contributed to this achievement by being the first athlete in LCHS history to win four straight CIF titles. Not to be outdone by the divers, the swimmers also reached new competitive heights. Ninth grader Katy Campbell set a new CIF and school record by swimming the 500 Freestyle in 4:53:04. Campbell also has a long standing school record in the 200 Freestyle. The fantastic four: (Justin Renfro, Conner Rothe, Alex Campbell, and Chris Meyers) also broke a CIF and school record in the 400 Freestyle Relay by swimming a 3:06.44. Meyers also swam a 20.92, thus breaking a school record in the 50 Freestyle. Overall, the swim and diving teams established 6 new Rio Hondo League records this past season. Head Swim Coach Art Lopez believes the success of his team can be attributed to dedication, perseverance and a positive attitude. “Every member of the team gave over 100% this past season,” said Lopez.

The La Canada Golf team also showed its competitive spirit this season as the team won its fifth consecutive Rio Hondo League title. Co-Captain Brian Veeh won his second straight Rio Hondo League Individual Championship and advanced to the semifinals in the Individual CIF competition. Co-Captain Mike Perry finished second in the RHL individual championship. Head Varsity Golf Coach Richard Tetu has accumulated a 115-17 record since taking over the program. “We had a tremendous season, and the athletes were amazing to coach,” said Tetu.

Head Varsity Softball Coach and LCHS Class of 92 alum KC Mathews led his Lady Spartans to their first Rio Hondo League Championship since the 2003 season. The Lady Spartans went 13-1 in league play. Individually, members of the Lady Spartans excelled as well. Co-captain and senior Abby Ulf was named Co- Most Valuable Player of the Rio Hondo League while sophomore pitching sensation , Lauren O Leary was named Co-Most Valuable of the Rio Hondo League. Pitcher Lauren Cox, Anna Edwards, Amanda Ulf and Devon Zerebko were named to the Rio Hondo All League First team. Seniors Anna Applebaum, Lucy Filippone, and Kylie Mulligan were named to the Rio Hondo League Second Team. “The girls have played really hard the last two years, and they deserve all of the success they have achieved. There has been an attitude shift regarding the entire program,” said Mathews.



### Website Shortcuts

<http://www.lcusd.net>

[/lchs - High School](#)

[/lchs78 - Jr. High](#)

[/lce - La Canada Elem](#)

[/pcr - Palm Crest Elem](#)

[/pcy - Paradise Canyon](#)

[/cal - District Calendar](#)

[/classlink - teachers  
classlink websites](#)

[/govboard - board of Ed](#)

[/news - Newsletter](#)

[/sarc - School Account-  
ability Report Cards](#)

[/SpecialEd - Spe-  
cial Education](#)

[/teachers - HS teachers](#)



Members of the LCHS Varsity Baseball team were also recognized for their achievements this past season. AJ Kim, Jeff Oechsel, and Eric Smith were named to the Rio Hondo All League First team, while Max Russell and Luis Carrasquero were named to the Rio Hondo All League Second team. “This was a great year for the baseball program. Everyone had a great time and the team was united,” said Head Varsity Coach, Dennis Ballard. The track and field team also received its share of accolades. Kevin Hoffman took 6th place in CIF for the 800 meter race and Jonathan Sparks took second place in CIF in the high jump.

The attitude of an athlete is truly a vital component when it comes to the success of an entire team. Attitude is a direct indication of what is in the mind and heart. The LCHS athletes have shown their hearts to be strong and focused. The athletes are alert and have proven themselves ready for challenge. Most importantly, the LCHS athletes have shown themselves to be the personification of strength and power. Go Spartans!

- Joanne Davidson, LCHS Assistant Principal



## Surviving the Summer

The Special Education-District Advisory Council held their meeting on May 21, 2009. The guest speaker was Dr. Laurie Stephens, Clinical Director of Clinical of Education Spectrum. Her topic was “Surviving the Summer with your Special Needs Child Without Breaking a Sweat!” If you missed the presentation, you can download the Power Point presentation from the district website at <http://www.lcusd.net/specialed>. It will really come in handy over the long hot summer!

- Tamara Jackson, Director of Special Education



# Superintendent

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stop raiding education in an attempt to mitigate the financial damage caused by their own failure to act decisively.

As I visit schools throughout the district and also reflect on our accomplishments, I am very proud of how, unlike the state government, we continue to meet and exceed all expectations. Our seniors have been admitted to outstanding colleges and universities, our high school continues to be ranked among the top in the nation, our test scores exceed all state targets, our athletes continue to capture league and CIF championships, our fine and performing arts students produce at professional levels and participants in our career/vocational ed programs earn awards and recognition in showcases across the county. Most importantly, our staff members never rest on past achievements but continue to move forward in implementing best educational practices and helping all students to succeed.

My thanks to all of you for the hard work, the vision and the professionalism.



## La Cañada Unified School District

### Cabinet

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James Stratton

**Asst. Superint.**  
Mike Leininger

**Asst. Superint.**  
Wendy Sinnette

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**Member**  
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**Member**  
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