

May 07, 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Director's Message



This month, my daughter celebrated her ninth birthday. A tradition in our family is to give some type of gift or tangible thank you to those who attend parties we host. Each child was given a simple 3-foot diamond kite. Some of the children said that they had never flown a kite, and were really excited about learning how.

[Read full message](#)

### Westchester High Happenings

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#### LMU For Others Opens the Career Speaker Series at Westchester High School

Monday, Feb. 22, was the first presentation of the Career Speaker Series. LMU for Others launched the series featuring two guest entrepreneurs: Albert Contreras, owner of Jeep Thrillz Off Road, who specializes in automotive repair, and Kai Sanson, owner of Zuma Swim & Surf and Solikai.com, who specializes in surf and swim training and vacation rentals. The Westchester High School event drew approximately 70 students. [Read full story](#)

#### Congratulations to the Westchester High School Basketball Team

The WHS varsity basketball team defeated the Mater Dei Monarchs on Saturday, March 20th. The Comets (32-3) then won their sixth state title on March 27, with a 63-56 win over Newark Memorial at Rabobank Arena in Bakersfield. Congratulations Comets!

#### Westchester High School Experiences Superb CAHSEE Participation Rates

Congratulations to WHS students, faculty, parents, and staff, for meeting the 95 percent participation requirement for the California High School Exit Exam at the first sitting.

School Tour at Loyola Village Elementary

**Tour of Grades 1 - 5**  
**Tuesday, April 27**  
**9:00 - 10:30 am**  
**Begins in the auditorium**

**For more information, call Loyola Village at 310.670.0480.**

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Saturday, April 24

**Cowan Avenue Spelling Bee and Super Quiz**

**9 a.m. at the Orville Wright Middle School Gym**

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Thursday, May 6

**Cowan Avenue Awards Night**  
**7 p.m. at the Orville Wright Middle School Auditorium**

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Saturday, May 22

**Race for Success at Loyola Marymount University**  
**8 a.m. - 5k Run/Walk**  
**9:30 a.m. - 1k Kids Run**  
**For more information or to register online, visit [www.raceforsuccess5k.org](http://www.raceforsuccess5k.org)**

This is a first for the school, and the high level of student participation is critical given that the exam scores are an element in the school's Academic Performance Index rating.

## Read All About It

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### **The Family of Schools Highlights a Program That Builds Literacy Skills - Reading Is Magical**

Loyola Marymount University graduate Sheri Sather has been working with children in the public school system for the past 10 years. She has teamed up with the LMU Family of Schools to share her innovative approach to reading with students. [Read full story](#)

### **Cowan 5th Graders Enjoy The Big Read Field Trip at LMU**

On March 11, fifth-graders from Cowan Avenue Elementary School visited LMU to enjoy a performance of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," as part of their participation in the Big Read program. This play was performed by members of Will & Co and was hosted by the Loyola Marymount University's William H. Hannon Library, which participates in the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read program. Will & Co, is a theater group that utilizes acting to encourage reading and literacy activities. [Read full story](#)

### **Second Annual Dr. Seuss Day Celebration**

LMU's sophomore class dedicated a day of service to enhancing literacy in the Family of Schools' partner elementary schools by participating in Dr. Seuss Day on March 2 and 5. Over 50 LMU undergraduates visited morning classes at four of the five elementary schools to read their favorite Dr. Seuss book with students.

## Arts & Entertainment

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## LMU Family of Schools Education Stakeholder of the Month: Fred Page



The FOS commits itself to recognizing the efforts of community stakeholders who serve a special role in improving and expanding the educational opportunities for our students. We would like to honor Westchester High School teacher Fred Page. [Read Full Story](#)

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### **Spoken Word**

On February 26, 2010, Loyola Village Elementary School, Orville Wright Middle School, and LMU's Office of Black Student Services organized a Cultural Café featuring spoken word and African Dance and Drumming. This inaugural event included student, parent, and community involvement. The LMU Family of Schools hopes to continue co-hosting this event and expand to include the entire FOS community.

### **Del Rey Players/WHS Spring Production - "Once On This Island"**

This semester, Westchester High School produced the musical, "Once on this Island." With a cast of approximately 30 students, the production was directed by Eric Hankey, head of music department. Two parents assisted in choreography and vocal training. In addition, five members of the LMU Del Rey Players coached "Once on this Island" actors in blocking techniques, creating the on-stage movement for the songs and scenes that do not have dancing, as well as singing and dancing. The performances were on March 18, 19, and 20.

### **KXLU Collaboration With Westchester High School**

In preparation for a new elective at Westchester High School for students in Hankey's section, LMU's student-run radio station, KXLU, has created a program to teach students the internal and external functions of a radio station, including the business of running a radio station.

[Read full story](#)

### **LMU FOS Continues Supporting the Arts With Professional Development -artsLink**

Five teachers from Kentwood Elementary, Westport Heights Elementary and Cowan Avenue Elementary schools have volunteered to be the designated art-specialist for their schools. The teachers have attended professional development programs for implementing art into the K-5 curriculum.

These sessions were hosted by Pasadena's Armory Center for the Arts and made possible by a grant from Boeing. The training sessions will continue next fall with a focus on dance and literacy. As art-specialists, these teachers will become valuable resources for their campus to keep art alive in the curriculum. This spring, the LMU Family of Schools will host an art festival to showcase elementary

students' art.

## Science & Technology

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### Technology Assessment Takes Place at FOS Schools

LMU's Information Technology Services and Cisco Systems joined to provide a technology assessment at each of the schools within the FOS. They will gauge the capacity of the servers, and count individual pieces of hardware. This information will help the governance councils make decisions about technology resource allocation and purchases.

### Iridescent Offers a Cutting-Edge Science Program to FOS Schools

The Family of Schools and Iridescent offer the Engineers as Teachers science literacy program to local elementary and middle schools. Engineers as Teachers is a service-learning program in which college students develop and teach hands-on science courses to underserved students and their families.

Westport Heights and Loyola Village Elementary schools will host Family Science Nights throughout April, and LMU will host a culminating event showcasing the work of the Engineers as Teachers and the students. Visit Iridescent's Web site to learn more: [www.iridescentlearning.org](http://www.iridescentlearning.org).

## Keeping Things Clean

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### Community Clean Up at Westchester High School

More than 150 volunteers gather at Westchester High School on Saturday, April 10, to paint, plant shrubs and flowers, and spruce up the campus. [Read full story](#)

### Earth Day

Students from the LMU Family of Schools will be participating in an LMU-organized Earth Day celebration that focuses on sustainability and water conservation to help solve California's water crisis. ECOSstudents, an environmentally conscious, LMU student group, is leading a campus-wide sustainability initiative. The Earth Day celebration is sponsored in partnership with LMU Doctoral Candidate Bryce Davis. [Read full story](#)

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