



Family of Schools

December 05, 2011

Upcoming Events

Message from the Director

For more than five years it has been a pleasure for the LMU Family of Schools team to partner with the local public schools to promote student achievement. As we enter the 2011-2012 school year, we find ourselves eager to continue to be a part of this tremendous work in support of our community.

This year we have embraced the opportunity to bring four area Catholic schools into the family: St. Bernard High School, St. Anastasia School, Visitation Catholic Elementary School and St. Jerome School. In doing this we not only expand our support, we also deepen our partnerships and the impact Loyola Marymount University has on PreK-12 education in the Westchester/Playa area.

Last year, many of our public schools, in spite of numerous challenges, made significant academic gains. The LMU Family of Schools provides a variety of avenues for our university to support the great work being done by students, teachers, administrators and community leaders in our partner schools. We take great pride in the productivity of our relationships and look forward to another year of academic growth, leadership development and service.

Darin Earley, Director
LMU Family of Schools

Student Achievement and the LMU Family of Schools

Each fall we have a chance to start anew – new classes, new teachers and new opportunities to learn and grow. The LMU Family of Schools supports teaching and learning by partnering with the schools to help make their efforts more effective despite the many challenges that impact student achievement. We seek to nurture a collaboration that identifies and responds to the various instructional and

Ongoing
LMU at 100

[More Information](#)

Ongoing
Fall Sports Nights
Gersten Pavillion, LMU
[View Calendar](#)

Ongoing
William H. Hannon
Library Exhibits
[More information](#)

Wednesdays and
Thursdays Ongoing | 3
- 4 p.m.
Healthy Start Tutoring
with LMU
Westchester Enriched
Sciences Magnets Library
[More Information](#)

Oct. 2-7 | All day
LMU Greek Week
Fundraiser
Menchie's Frozen Yogurt
[More Information](#)

Oct. 7 | 7 p.m. - Midnight
Kentwood 80's Prom Fall
Fundraiser with DJ
Richard Blade
Westchester Elks Lodge
[More Information](#)

Oct. 12 | 5 p.m.
St. Bernard College Night
St. Bernard High School
[More Information](#)

Oct. 14 | 3:30 p.m.

non-instructional needs of our schools and the students and families they serve.

For the seven public schools within the LMU Family of Schools, annual measurements calculate the growth and progress of administrators, teachers and students in meeting a variety of academic standards. While the percentage of English-language learners at the schools within Westchester/Playa is low – less than 10 percent at two of the schools – many of the schools face the challenge of educating a high percentage of educationally disadvantaged students who are eligible for the federal free or reduced lunch program. The percentage is at least 33 percent in the FOS elementary schools and as high as 68 percent in the middle school. Federally, a school is defined as a Title I school if the population is above the 35 percent threshold of students from low-income families.

A school's state performance is measured by its Academic Performance Index on a scale from 200 to 1000, with recognition for a score above 800 meeting the statewide goal for all schools. Across the elementary schools, the API grew 112 points collectively. With Paseo del Rey Natural Science Magnet Elementary School leading the way with an API of 877, we are thrilled to report that four out of our five elementary schools surpassed the 800 mark, and the fifth school is on the rise with an API of 786. Loyola Village Elementary School had the greatest jump in API, with an increase of 72 points to 872. This improvement was the direct result of Principal Melinda Goodall's leadership and the teachers' commitment to an intensive focus on math and reading intervention. Through a grant from the California Community Foundation, the LMU Family of Schools provided funding that supported a portion of teacher release time for peer observations and best practices review. Westchester High School increased its API score by 16 points to 663. This marks the fifth year of improvement. However, a variability of outcomes is still present in our schools. The LMU Family of Schools remains committed to working to create an environment where all students receive a high-quality education and are prepared to succeed in life.

Westchester High School becomes Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets

"There's no doubt that we share a firm commitment to the idea that all children deserve a college preparatory education, and we're now working to make that idea a reality." These were the words of Robert Canosa-Carr, principal of the new Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets, as the school officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held the first day of school. As students, faculty, parents, community members, representatives from LAUSD and the LMU Family of Schools looked on, Carr and a panel of distinguished guests offered words of hope and encouragement

**William H. Hannon
Library Tour
William H. Hannon
Library, LMU
[Register](#)**

**Oct. 15 | 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
LoVE Arts Alive Festival
Loyola Village
Elementary School
[More Information](#)**

**Oct. 16 | 3 p.m.
Men's Soccer | Fall
Sports Night
Gersten Pavillion, LMU
[Register](#)**

**October 21 - 23 | All day
St. Jerome's School
Carnival
St. Jerome School
[More information](#)**

**Oct. 22
Men's Basketball
Crimson and Navy Game
| Fall Sports Night
Gersten Pavillion, LMU
[Register](#)**

**Oct. 27 | 3:30 p.m.
Fright Night Halloween
Carnival
Sunken Garden, LMU
[Register](#)**

**Oct. 29 | 1 p.m.
Men's Water Polo | Fall
Sports Night
Gersten Pavillion, LMU
[Register](#)**

**Oct. 30 | 1 p.m.
Women's Soccer | Fall
Sports Night
Gersten Pavillion, LMU
[Register](#)**

**Nov. 5 | 12 p.m.
Think Pink 5K
Alumni Mall, LMU
[Register](#)**

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words of hope and encouragement.

The theme of the ceremony was commitment, which was evident as students strode across campus displaying their commitment to adhere to the new school's uniform policy. Shane P. Martin, dean and professor at the LMU School of Education, reaffirmed the LMU Family of Schools partnership and the university's continued support in promoting student achievement. J.D. Webster, WESM's parent and community representative, spoke to the importance of community involvement and his commitment to reengaging organizations like the Westchester Rotary Club and local businesses to help increase the base of support for the school. However, the most important speaker of the morning was the newly elected student body president, Geoffrey Stanton. Stanton challenged each of the stakeholders to make a commitment to help Westchester fulfill its purpose and promise to become a top tier high school.

Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets High School is comprised of three science-themed magnet schools: The Environmental & Natural Science Magnet, the Aviation & Aerospace Magnet and the Health & Sports Medicine Magnet. The LMU Family of Schools commitment to this transition is evidenced by the partnership between the Environmental & Natural Science Magnet and the LMU Center for Urban Resilience and Ecological Solutions. CURES, which is headed by Eric Strauss, President's Professor of Biology at LMU, has trained more than 17 WESM teachers in an interdisciplinary curriculum with more than 200 modules that teachers can choose from and use to enhance classroom instruction in environmental and natural science. This is a great beginning to our effort to engage LMU faculty in supporting our new FOS high school.

St. Bernard High School's Student-Run Store

St. Bernard High School has opened its first student-operated store. Under the leadership of economics and finance teacher Ronald Rishagen, the store, open every school day during the morning break, at lunch and after school, offers a wide variety of school supplies, food and clothing items such as school beanies and scarves. The students do the ordering, pricing, merchandising, selling and record keeping.

Rishagen came up with the idea at the end of the last school year and pitched it to Principal Michael Alvarez, who approved. Christened Bernie's Breezeway Store and Café, the student body has been very receptive of this new campus institution, with the store typically selling out of pizza and sandwiches every day at lunch.

"I have some of the most talented and dedicated students in the school," Rishagen said. "This is a great opportunity for them to learn many of the skills that are so important in business, especially customer service. It's not always easy

dealing with adolescent customers.”

During this past summer the LMU Family of Schools began collaborating with Fred Kiesner, a professor of entrepreneurship at LMU. Kiesner agreed to advise Rishagen and his students and provide mentors from the ranks of his past and present LMU students.

At the end of August, the LMU Family of Schools team, along with Kiesner and his wife, visited the grand opening of the Bernie’s Breezeway Store and Café and had the opportunity to talk to the students.

Kiesner said, “the LMU Entrepreneurship Program is delighted to work with the St. Bernard High School entrepreneurship efforts. Entrepreneurship is a way of thinking, and to get these kids involved in running their own business at this age really prepares them for controlling their own destiny, through entrepreneurial endeavors, in the future. Great kids, great faculty, great results! Bravo to the administration of St. Bernard for having the insight to understand how much this program does for their kids.”

To learn more about the LMU Family of Schools, visit our [website](#).

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