



Family of Schools NEWSLETTER

December 22, 2009

Upcoming Events



Message from FOS Director

I am Darin Earley and I am proud to be the new director of the LMU Family of Schools. The former director, Drew Furedi, left in October to become a policy adviser to LAUSD's Superintendent Ray Cortines. Prior to stepping into this position, I was the coordinator for instructional programs within the Family of Schools, organizing professional development opportunities

and working with school staff to address culture and climate issues that affect student achievement. I also have been a classroom teacher, school administrator and human relations facilitator with LAUSD.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending Academic Jacket Night at Westchester High School. It was a very celebratory occasion as Seniors, who had maintained a 3.75 cumulative GPA, were honored and received letterman style jackets as recognition for their accomplishments.

The most notable moment of that evening was learning from a parent that their 11th grade child had dreamed of earning a jacket since she experienced Jacket Night as a freshman. This student, who is on track to earning an academic jacket next fall, was so inspired that she looked into her parents' eyes back in 2007 and declared "I am going to get one of those jackets." A moment of tangible, visible inspiration was motivation for her to challenge herself to pursue this particular goal over the course of a long, arduous high school career.

Goals allow people and organizations to have vision and purpose. They enable us to focus and stay the course, even when the waters are rough or muddied. In the past 12 months,

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Community Service: Feed the Hungry

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Saturday, Jan. 16
Men's Basketball
Free tickets are available to members of the FOS Community. Click here.

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Tuesday, Jan. 19
LAUSD Report Cards Go To Parents

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Thursday, Jan. 21
LMU Farmers Market

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Saturday, Jan. 23
Women's Basketball
Free tickets are available to members of the FOS Community. Click here.

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Monday, Jan. 24
Performance: Annual Children's Concert

.....
Thursday, Jan. 28
Mission Day

the Family of Schools has accomplished many of our goals. Collectively, our schools showed tremendous improvement in Academic Performance Index scores and California Standards Test performance. The Governance Councils in our iDesign Schools were formed, officers seated and bylaws have been created and implemented. Additionally, diverse programs and projects from different LMU stakeholders have been piloted and institutionalized on many of our campuses.

As we look toward 2010, the Family of Schools team has begun setting new goals that were inspired by, tangible and visible successes in the Westchester education community.

Partnership Activities



artsLink Workshops Draw Big Participation from FOS Teachers

Sponsored by Boeing, the artsLINK program connects LMU arts resources and faculty expertise with FOS elementary schools to develop a comprehensive arts infusion strategy. Under the direction of Terry Lenihan, artsLink will work with elementary school teachers to provide instructor training in the arts that is essential for a well-rounded education. The first two fall workshops were huge successes where teachers were given art supplies to help bring art activities to their students. The final artsLINK workshop, "Celebrating the Arts," was held at LMU in Murphy Recital Hall on Dec.8; we are excited about the workshops that will take place in the spring.

The LMU Del Rey Players Form Partnership with the WHS Theater Production Club

The LMU Family of Schools is proud of the partnership between the LMU Del Rey Players and Westchester High School's Theater Production Club. The LMU Del Rey Players, a student-run university theater group, directed and produced Westchester's fall production of "London Suite," by Neil Simon. "London Suite" was performed on Dec. 9 and 10 at the Westchester Theater.

Tuesday, Feb. 2
[Presentation: "Three Cups of Tea" Author Greg Mortenson](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 24
[Performance: Women's Chorus Festival](#)

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Del Rey Players has supported Westchester High both artistically and financially; they donated the proceeds from their Nov. 17 performance of "A Nice Family Gathering" to the high school's Theater Production Club. The Del Rey Players mentorship of the Westchester High drama students is an outstanding example of the university's dedication to student success in the Westchester area.

For more information about the Del Rey Players, please visit: http://www.lmu.edu/studentlife/Del_Rey_Players.htm

"Try the Y Week" is a Success!

The Westchester Family YMCA partnered with the Family of Schools to tackle the growing problem of childhood obesity in our community by providing activities for students that promote a healthier lifestyle.

During the second week of November, the Westchester Family YMCA hosted a "Try the Y Week" with the Family of Schools. The LMU Family of Schools assisted in promoting the event to families and students where they had full access to the facilities free of charge. This exciting weeklong event provided something for the whole family. The festivities began with a Welcome Kick-Off Party and BBQ on Nov. 9th where there was food, prizes and fun for everyone. Children even had the opportunity to climb a 36-foot rock climbing wall.

Several Family of Schools participants were involved. They got to know the state-of-the-art facility that offers a variety of high-quality programs for all ages and interests.

Second Annual Youth Summit at Orville Wright Middle School

In collaboration with the Family of Schools, the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the second annual Youth Summit at Orville Wright Middle School on Nov. 13. The event connected professionals from the Los Angeles area with more than 1,200 middle school students to encourage students to take an active role in researching and pursuing career goals. Career presentations were made, and college preparation and job readiness were discussed with students. By providing training, support and having FOS staff members participate in the summit, the LMU Family of Schools is proud to have been a part of this event.

Sports Night, Spring 2010

Come support the LMU Lions at the upcoming home games this spring. Free Tickets are available to all members of the FOS community.

In the fall semester over 100 FOS members watched the LMU Lions play soccer, men's water polo and women's volleyball. Click [here](#) for tickets to men's and women's basketball, softball,

women's water polo, tennis, and baseball.

Partnership Programs



MATHWAYS and the LMU Family of Schools

Scottish comedian Billy Connolly once said, "I don't know why I should have to learn algebra ... I'm never likely to go there." Unfortunately, for too long this has been the mindset of many secondary school students in algebra courses throughout our nation. In an attempt to combat this sentiment, the LMU Family of Schools has implemented MATHWAYS.

MATHWAYS is a grant-funded comprehensive professional development program for secondary algebra teachers. It is an intervention program that aligns math instruction with student needs and academic outcomes at the middle and high school level. Designed to maximize teacher collaboration and improve class instruction, this program is also unique in that it has a character education component that targets students in need of social-emotional as well as academic support.

Our first group of algebra teachers includes two educators from Orville Wright Middle School (Vicki Cousins, Margurette Baptiste) and four from Westchester High School (Alan Brown, Melanie Dismuke, David Fulkerson and Aaron Igoma). These teachers have participated in two of five professional development workshops and are already realizing the value of targeted collaboration. One participant commented, "I really value the opportunity to connect with the teachers in my discipline and learn what they are doing so I can get better at what I am doing?"

Stay tuned ... MATHWAYS will change algebra instruction and student achievement within the LMU Family of Schools.

LMU Family of Schools Launches Student Athletes-College Connection

This fall, the LMU Family of Schools launched a pilot project that connects the LMU Athletics Department with Orville Wright Middle School. This pilot program, called Student Athletes-College Connection, will focus on fostering a college-going culture specifically for the seventh-grade students at Orville Wright. The year-long program will match LMU student-athletes with seventh-graders to focus on topics and activities related to college readiness, such as mentoring, goal-setting, sharing personal stories, attending LMU sporting events and an end-of-the-year visit to LMU. We are excited that athletes from the women's basketball, men's baseball, women's and men's tennis, and men's soccer teams will be part of this project for the 2009-2010 academic year. This mentoring opportunity allows LMU student-athletes to live out the mission of the university in a way that supports both the community and the development of the whole person.

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