Greetings!

The new school year is upon us and we are excited about the continuing progress of each school as data from the 2011-12 school year begin to roll in. Our vision of preparing every student for success in college, regardless of level of proficiency when first enrolled, is becoming a measurable reality.

This success is the direct result of the profound effort of our teachers, staff, students, and educational partners who have taken on the task of creating and sustaining college-ready culture, curriculum, and support.

In this edition of our quarterly newsletter we will highlight some of this encouraging data and, more importantly, give you a glimpse of our students' experiences as they learn and grow as future leaders.

Welcome, Class of 2017!

Sincerely,

Louise Waters
Leadership Public Schools

LPS' API (Academic Performance Index) Set to Rise

Numbers show LPS is set for a very strong showing on the 2012 California Academic Performance Index (API). LPS Richmond stands ready to break the 800 API mark, something few high schools and even many fewer low-income high schools make; a truly remarkable feat for schools with our demographics. LPS College Park should also make headlines with an incredible growth of approximately 90 points -- well above the State target of 10 points or 30 points over three years. LPS Hayward is on track to continue to be one of the best-performing high schools serving low-income students in the state. We are so proud of the incredible work of our staff and students represented by these results.

LPS Freshman Retreat Held at Santa Clara University

Each year, all LPS incoming freshman are invited to
take part in a three day orientation that exposes them--most for the first time--to college culture. This year's event was held at Santa Clara University campus where hundreds of LPS students, peer counselors, and their chaperones stayed overnight in student dorms and participated in various activities designed to inspire our newest members of the LPS family to "learn, lead, and succeed."

Team-building exercises included creating a school cheer, scaling a 15 foot wall, and the student "Olympics" where teams competed in events such as the tug-of-war, human knot, and several versions of "creative" relay races.

"The new student retreat is an opportunity for students to see what college life can be life and to picture themselves in that setting - a first for many of the students we serve," says LPS san Jose Principal and retreat chaperone Vanessa Sifuentes.

LPS Oakland senior and peer student leader Aliyah Parker sums up her experience: "I joined LPS with the freshman retreat and I've been there since. For me it was a way to begin high school without feeling alone."

LPS Oakland freshman Anthony Stanley Romero sums up his experience: "LPS' freshman retreat helped me mature as an individual as I was able to meet new people and experience both the high school and college life. LPS really cares about their students; they have helped me make a smooth transition from middle school to high school"

Find LPS Online

Introducing the Geek Squad at LPS Oakland
Students as Tech Innovators

Christian Mora, club president of the newly formed Geek Squad at LPS Oakland has the undivided attention of a group of about a dozen members seated in a circle as they discuss club roles, rules, and upcoming projects.

"The Geek Squad was created to address the reality that schools are becoming more technology-based," Mora explains. "Through this club we gain college-level tech experience right here, right now."

The Geek Squad is the brainchild of LPS chemistry teacher Sairina Tsui who envisioned beginning a student-led club that would pair students trained in resolving technology issues with teachers in need of support. "The students were carefully selected at the end of the last school year from a large pool of applicants, with only 30 percent making the cut," Ms. Tsui explains. "Training the students took place during the summer and now they're swinging right into action."

"For most of these students, this is their first experience with running something on their own," states Ms. Tsui. "I believe this club will help these students feel that they have a stake in ownership at their school, and that through building something they are proud of and can actually control they realize that there's something out there that can be bigger than themselves."

The group has recently partnered with the pilot program Stoodle, a student-run non-profit organization owned by the CK-12 Educational Foundation that seeks to bridge the education gap between schools by providing a comprehensive, online learning experience.
My Summer Experience at Brown University

LPS Hayward senior Aaron Torres is feeling pretty optimistic about attending college next fall, thanks in part to what he describes as a "life changing" three-week long summer experience at Brown University. Torres was selected by Summer Search, a non profit organization that provides low-income high school students with year-round mentoring, life-changing summer experiences, college advising, and a lasting support network, to receive a fully funded scholarship to attend the prestigious Brown University and take a credited college course --in his case Introduction to Psychology and Human Behavior.

"Being on campus was at first a bit of a culture shock," explains Torres. "There were students from all over the world and we were given near total responsibility for ourselves. No one told us when to go to class, or get up in the morning."

Torres admits that he was at first intimidated by the history and reputation of the university, but was soon comforted by the fact that "college can be cool and fun even when it's a lot of work."

"This experience, along with the amazing support of my teachers at LPS has given me the confidence to know that I will be prepared for college next year," states Torres, who
plans on majoring in Business Administration. His first choice college is—perhaps not too surprisingly—Brown.

**LPS and the "Excellence in Investing" Conference**

On Wednesday, October 24, "Excellence in Investing: San Francisco," the Bay Area's premiere investor conference, will bring together top investors and other prominent thinkers from Wall Street, Silicon Valley and everywhere in between.

Founded three years ago by LPS Board Member, Jack Selby, the event benefits four national non-profits, including LPS.

For more information or to register for the conference please visit [www.info@excellencesf.org](http://www.info@excellencesf.org)