What's New for 2013 at LPS

A Message from our Superintendent and CEO

Dear LPS Supporter,

While we are cautiously optimistic that the drastic cuts to education have subsided, the gap between the educational and economic haves and have-nots continues to grow. If our students are to have a life of options in the rapidly changing 21st century economy, we must recommit to moving them into the ranks of those with educational capital. At LPS, we continue to sharpen our focus on addressing the barriers to this goal that continue to plague urban schools across the country.

We know that there are solutions, and Leadership Public Schools is leading the way in developing new tools that prepare our students and hundreds of thousands like them across the nation to succeed in a rapidly changing society.

As we ramp up our efforts to meet these challenges we look forward to sharing our stories of success with our many supporters; together we are transforming the lives of low-income students and redefining urban high school education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,
Introducing UrbanEDU

LPS is excited to announce the formation of a spin-off corporation, UrbanEDU, that will complete the development of our real-time data app, ExitTicket, and take it to market. ExitTicket has been achieving amazing results in our schools and has generated considerable interest beyond LPS. It was launched on March 18 to an invited group of teachers and schools and will soon be available in the Apple iTunes and Android application stores. Dr. Scot Relfsland, former LPS Chief Innovation Officer and creator of ExitTicket will serve as the CTO of UrbanEDU. For more about ExitTicket, please visit www.exitticket.org.

Leonardo Rodriguez - On a Quest

LPS Oakland senior Leonardo Rodriguez has much to look forward to as he prepares to attend Wesleyan University this coming fall. "I'm excited and nervous at the same time," says Leonardo, "but I am really looking forward to the experience."

Through a partnership between LPS and the Mills College Educational Talent Search (METS) Leonardo was referred to the non-profit organization Students Rising Above (SRA), which provides intensive support to college-bound students. SRA encouraged Leonardo to apply to Questbridge's National Scholar

Bringing Drama to the Classroom

Thanks to a generous grant from the After School Program Grants (Philanthropic Ventures Foundation), LPS San Jose English and Performing Arts teacher Megan Lind has launched the first-ever Drama Club at the school.

The popular club boasts 20 members, and has so far put on one production, the well-received Fall Showcase in October 2012.

"The purpose of the grant was to provide funds that would enable us to form a student-led extra-curricular club that would expose students to the performing arts culture in the area," says Lind. "Thanks to their generous support, we have been able to attend a live performance of the musical Les Misérables and we are planning a trip to Los Angeles to see filming behind the scenes.

Mindset Research and Innovation Partnership with Stanford University

Academic Mindsets are beliefs, attitudes, or ways of perceiving oneself that support academic performance. Numerous studies have identified specific aspects of classroom context that contribute to strong academic mindsets but a gap persists between research findings and teachers' intentional use of strategies to promote positive student mindsets (U. Chicago, June 2012)[i]. LPS, in partnership with Stanford researchers Kody Manke and Dave Paunesku, has launched the Mindset Research Project to bridge that gap.

This semester about 400 LPS students take a short, online Mindset Survey every two weeks. The survey asks a range of questions about how students feel and think about themselves that day. In May 2013, students will analyze the survey data and generate findings and recommendations to guide ongoing research at Stanford and ongoing design and innovation of classroom practices at LPS. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that our graduates are equipped with the mindsets most conducive to overcoming obstacles and persisting toward their greatest hopes and dreams.

Match—a program that helps students who have excelled despite hardships gain admission and full four-year scholarships to some of the nation's most prestigious universities. 

Leonardo was matched with Wesleyan, where he plans to study to become a neuroscientist, specializing in autism. "My little brother, who is autistic, is my inspiration for wanting to uncover the causes and treatment of autistic disorders," states Leonardo. "And LPS gave me the preparation and connections I needed to make that happen."

go on a studio tour, and learn more about acting and filming."

Club co-presidents Makayla Cochran and Lucinda Maldonado have enjoyed sharing the responsibilities—and fun—of leading a successful club on campus. "Drama Club is a place for students to learn and perfect acting techniques as well as a place where students can be free to be themselves, says Makayla. "Drama Club is liberating and full of bright and energetic students," adds Lucinda.

The club is currently working on the musical production The Wedding Singer, which will be performed the first weekend in May. It will be the first musical ever performed at LPS San Jose.

Stay Connected

344 Thomas L Berkely Way, Oakland, CA 94612 · 510-830-3780 · info@leapso.org

Try it FREE today.