

February, 2010

**Markus Autrey, Principal**  
Elizabeth Laborde, Assistant Principal  
Scott Downs, Assistant Principal  
Kristi Grasty, Assistant Principal



**Cary Matsuoka, Superintendent**

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## From the Principal

Dear Los Gatos High School Community,

Time continues to pass quickly. We had a smooth end to the first semester of block scheduling and the new tutorial structure. We are pleased to report that teachers and students feel like it was a very strong and welcomed change. Although, like any change, it was not without its challenges, the teachers, staff, and students rose to the challenge and completed a successful first semester. We surveyed the student body and 88% of the students reported that they found the block schedule to make their lives more manageable. Ninety-two percent of the students reported that they found the tutorial period to be helpful or extremely helpful in navigating their academic pursuits.

In addition to these changes, we continued to develop the Freshmen Support Program for freshmen who received an F grade in one or more classes. These students were assigned an extra period that met with a teacher twice a week either first period or after school. At the end of the first semester, we exited over 20 students from the program and had our best results for freshmen not receiving Fs in the past 4 years. Amy Gutierrez, the Guidance Department Chairperson, along with the Freshmen Support teachers, continues to pursue academic success with our struggling freshmen. We will continue to discuss the benefits and struggles of these scheduling changes and their affects on the student body. We will also be sending a survey to all parents within the next month regarding the schedule and the tutorial structure.

The New Millennium Foundation also completed their grant requests for the teachers. With all of your support they were able to fund many beneficial supplies and services to our teachers and students. You can view all the grants the NMF funded in this newsletter. As many of you have heard, the state budget has been difficult for public education and although we have not been greatly affected in the past, it is our turn to give back, and we will feel the financial effect of the present economy. The NMF is currently planning a funding initiative for the spring semester to ensure that LGHS will be able to continue many of the programs and services the community has come to expect for its young people. Please look for more information on the initiative as the semester continues.

Winter sports continue to see success as they move into playoffs and the spring sports are beginning to gather momentum. There has been a great deal of student body support at our basketball competitions. They are certainly spirited and we continue to refine their practices as we are pleased with the amount of student support and greatly desire to have our students represent excellence in competition and spirit.

The Department Chairs with the input of the staff members along with the members of the School Site Council have been working on setting goals for the rest of this school year and the next. Shortly it is my hope that you will begin to receive regular updates via e-mail directing you to various links on the Los Gatos High School new website. We are hopeful to introduce the new site, same address ([www.lghs.net](http://www.lghs.net)) different look, by the end of February. You will all receive an invitation to view the site when it opens. It is our goal that all teachers will have active sites for their classes by October of 2010 if not before. We continue to recognize the need for improved communication and are committed to receiving feedback and making changes to have more open, consistent, and clear communication with our students, parents, and community.

With all of these changes and progress, I would like to thank all of you who support Los Gatos High School in one way or another. We are fortunate to serve a community who values and is so strongly invested in the lives of its young people. We hope to begin bi-weekly updates to all of you as soon as the new website is up and running.

Let us all have a productive week as we prepare for the February break. Please feel free to e-mail me feedback and suggestions about the school, its communication, and its direction at [mautrey@lghs.net](mailto:mautrey@lghs.net)

Sincerely,

Markus Autrey  
Principal, Los Gatos High School

20 High School Court, Los Gatos, California 95030

## Thank You for Your Support!

Through much community support, the Los Gatos High School New Millennium Foundation was able to fund the following department requests;

DEPARTMENT	ITEM	BUDGET
English	Computers, LCD Projector	\$39,167.00
Science	12 IMACS	\$18,012.00
Athletics	Baseball Lights	\$17,700.00
Library	Electronic Library	\$ 8,375.09
Science	12 IMACS	\$14,937.00
Home Economics	12 IMACS	\$13,385.00
Social Science	Connect to School Program	\$12,000.00
Art	20 IMACS, 2 LCD Projectors	\$ 7,233.00
Athletics	Swimming Timing System	\$ 4,800.00
Math	8 Document Cameras	\$ 4,624.00
World Language	8 Document Cameras	\$ 4,624.00
Athletics	Volleyball Equipment	\$ 2,300.00
Math	United Streaming Curriculum Renewal	\$ 2,095.00
English	MAC Book	\$ 1,132.00
Special Education	LCD Projector	\$ 873.00
English	Blackout Blinds	\$ 800.00
Art	Sculpture Kiln	\$ 631.00
Administration	All in One Printer	\$ 400.00
Administration	HP Printer	\$ 346.00
	<b>TOTAL SCHOOL GRANTS</b>	<b>\$153,434.00</b>

# FROM THE WORLD

## LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

### **French:**

LGHS French students and Ms. Lewycky went to see "Coco Before Chanel" at Camera Cinemas in downtown Los Gatos in October. Audrey Tautou (of "Amélie") did a fabulous job portraying Coco Chanel and everyone had a great time taking in the French flick together!

Plans are underway for a joint Los Gatos & Saratoga High School "Holiday Dessert Party!" to be held in early December. Students from the two schools will come together to celebrate the holiday season and compete for prizes in team games such as constructing Eiffel Towers and decorating traditional "Bûche de Noël " cakes.

### **Spanish:**

Students in Spanish classes observed the Mexican holiday, Dia de los Muertos, or "Day of the Dead" by decorating skulls and enjoying delicious churros and hot chocolate.

Spanish teachers at LGHS recently hosted an articulation get-together with Spanish teachers from C.T. English, St. Mary's, and Fisher Middle School to discuss placement criteria, share scoring rubrics for the written portion of the placement exam, and to discuss ideas for future collaboration among students as well as teachers. The meeting was very productive and the teachers are looking forward to continuing to work together.

### **German:**

If you heard yodeling recently coming from the World Languages Department, it was just the German students celebrating "Oktoberfest". The festivities included feasting on sausage and German potato salad. In December students will enjoy the annual visit and performance of the "Zaider from the Santa Cruz Mountains Singers", a traditional folk music group.

### **Japanese:**

In September, members of the San Jose Kendo Dojo gave a very informative and culturally enriching demonstration of the martial art of kendo to several classes in the Community Room. After the demonstration, the kendo group stayed and had lunch with students in the AP Japanese class. In December, students in Japanese 2 will enjoy a visit from a shodou, or calligraphy teacher, who will teach the students to write characters with a Japanese traditional brush and ink.

On November 1, Cutter Coryell was a fifth place finalist in the 36th Annual Japanese Speech Contest, held at the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco, Cutter's speech was about his dream of becoming a physicist, and you can see it on Facebook by searching: LGHS Nihongo.

All of the Japanese classes welcomed 2010 on the first day back from Winter Break with a gala Japanese New Year's Festival all day long in the Community Room. Students enjoyed traditional activities such as writing kanji with brush and ink, making ema plaques with their wishes for the new year and playing traditional games like karuta, kendama and hanetsuki. They also learned to juggle beanbags from Jordan sensei's 86 year old mom, participated in chopstick skill competition, tasted mochi pastries, and made origami wildcats to celebrate the year of the tiger. Samples of their handiwork and photos from the event will be on display in the library soon, so watch for it.

## **FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Dan Burns was a presenter at the California Science Teachers Association meeting in Palm Springs on October 24, 2009. Dan did a workshop on infrared radiation classroom activities including how to make a near-IR camera. Dan's trip was sponsored by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Details of this workshop can be found at:

[http://csta.networkats.com/members\\_online/members/meetings.asp?action=evt&mc=CSEC09&ec=WS164](http://csta.networkats.com/members_online/members/meetings.asp?action=evt&mc=CSEC09&ec=WS164)

[http://csta.networkats.com/members\\_online/members/meetings.asp?action=evt&mc=CSEC09&ec=WS164](http://csta.networkats.com/members_online/members/meetings.asp?action=evt&mc=CSEC09&ec=WS164)

Dan also attended the Fall meeting of the Northern California section of the American Association of Physics Teachers at NASA Ames on 10/10.

## **FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Congratulations to four of our band musicians who were accepted into the Santa Clara County Honor Band: Darrin Dufort-Tenor Saxophone, Phoebe Wu-Alto Saxophone, Diane Huang-Oboe (principal Oboe,) and Ian Gallmeister. These students have been working all fall to prepare for this and won there spots with nerves of steel in live auditions back in December. They performed on Sunday, January 17 at Saratoga High School's McAfee Performing Arts Center with the entire honor band under the direction of Dr. Ryan Nelson of Northwestern University. All four will be part of the Los Gatos HS Band as we travel to Italy for a week of performances and cultural exchanges in mid-April.

Joey Fortino

## **Library Happenings**

Happy New Year! The library has been abuzz as usual with research projects, outside reading assignments, and numerous classroom visits. We are also being heavily used during tutorial (sometimes we have over 200 students) and we have had several other departments, such as Art and P.E., using our facilities this year. One such collaborative project was with Ms. Christie's sculpture class where they designed unique and beautiful masks in relation to a poem they had picked out in the library. The students then came back to the library, after winter break, to read their poems and say why they had chosen them which was a truly moving experience. Then before the students left they displayed both their masks and poems in different parts of the library. Another such project was with a couple of Ms. Walker's P.E. classes where they were keeping journals of what they had been eating during the past few weeks. The students then came into the library not only go to various nutrition web sites that had been researched/bookmarked for them for their lesson but also to learn where they could find the various books and magazines on health and nutrition in both their school and public library. Careers in the nutrition field were briefly touch upon, too, and the fact that our Superintendent, Mr. Matsuoka, has an undergraduate degree in nutrition from UC Davis! We are extremely thankful to NMF, ACTT and the Student Site Council for helping us with our funding this year. Again, if we did not have this financial support our library program would not be as good as it is in regards to the collection (print and non-print), online databases/information portals, and the other services that we provide for both our students and staff here at LGHS. As always you are welcome to visit your student's library and see not only the beautiful facility itself (great art displays, too) but all the wonderful services we have to offer here. And please remember that our public library, right across the street, has many complimentary services that can help your student, too!

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Nelson & Mrs. Smith

**Don't miss the amazing  
Los Gatos High School  
production of  
A Chorus Line!  
March 5, 6, 12, 13 at 8:00 pm  
and March 11 at 7:00 pm.**

In an empty theatre, on a bare stage, casting for a new Broadway musical is almost complete. For these performers, this audition is the chance of a lifetime. It's what they've worked for with every drop of sweat, every hour of training, every day of their lives. It's the one opportunity to do what they've always dreamed – to have the chance to dance on Broadway!

A Chorus Line, is the musical for everyone who's ever had a dream and put it all on the line. Winner of nine Tony Awards®, including “Best Musical” and the Pulitzer Prize for drama, this singular sensation is the longest-running American Broadway musical of all time.

Now, our amazing Los Gatos High School cast, led by Director/Choreographer Alex Acevedo and Musical Director Diana Pleasant will transport you to a New York stage. There you will join a Broadway audition already in progress, watching the many dancers compete for a small number of spots in the chorus line of a new production. In order to make final selections, the director employs a unique approach, interviewing the final 17 candidates not about their skills as dancers but their unique lives. Through their personal stories, you are given a chance to see through a window into the highly competitive world of the professional performer as they struggle to make it to the top.

Tickets go on sale February 5 @ [www.lghs.net](http://www.lghs.net) or call 408/358-4247 for more information. Be sure to order your tickets early for this very popular production.