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PUC Connections

Dedicated to keeping our circle of schools connected.

Milagro Charter School · Excel Charter Academy · CALS MS · CALS HS · CCMS · CCECHS · Lakeview Charter Academy

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 25, 2007

PUC Schools presents: LA Visual Art Exhibit

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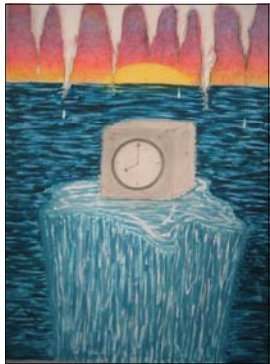
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All Los Angeles PUC Schools will be exhibiting a variety of student artwork in the first LA Visual Art Exhibit! The exhibit will feature artwork from students from Milagro Charter School, Excel Charter Academy, CALS Charter Middle School, and CALS Early College High School.

This is the first time these schools will come together to display these artistic creations, and is a great opportunity for us and the surrounding community to see PUC Schools' talent! Please come join us for the Opening Reception on **Wednesday, May 2, 2007, from 5:00 – 7:30pm, at the**

Cypress Park Library, located at 1150 Cypress Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90065.

Selected prints will be available for sale, and refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Sharon Mamane at s.mamane@pucschools.org, or Alexandra Cornell at alexandrainfante@sbcglobal.net. Hope to see you there!!!



DATES TO REMEMBER!

(Please plan your vacations accordingly)

- August 6-10, 2007: New Teacher Institute (5 days)
- August 20-24, 2007: Site Specific Institute (5 days)
- August 27-31, 2007: Math/Literacy Institute (5 days)
- September 5-7, 2007: PUC Wide Institute (3 days)
- Wednesday, September 12, 2007: School Starts!

2 CALS HS Students & 1 CALS HS Teacher ran the Los Angeles Marathon!

The 22nd annual City of Los Angeles Marathon presented by Honda took place on Saturday, March 4, 2007. There was an entirely new course with the exception of the last two blocks. About 24,750 participants were at the new Start Line at Universal Studios Hollywood. The Finish Line was in downtown Los Angeles.

Two of our students ran the race! Ray Cruz (11th grade) and Juan Carlos Acosta (10th grade), from CALS Early College High School ran the 26.2 mile race. "They both trained on their own and completed the race. After having run the 26.2 miles on Sunday, they both made it to school on Monday (on-time)," stated Connie Rivas, Assistant Principal

At CALS Early College High School.

Matthew Malmquist, history teacher at CALS HS, ran the marathon as well.

Congrats to Ray, Juan Carlos, and Mr. Malmquist on running the 26.2 mile race!

California Credit Union (CCU) Credit Cards and Giving Back to our Schools

At PUC, we are all committed to providing our students with an enriching educational experience. In order to continue honoring that commitment, we are excited to announce a new fund-raising opportunity for our schools. This new program is the Charter Schools Rewards Visa Credit Card, brought to us by California Credit Union's CCU 4 Schools. This program takes advantage of something we do every day: shop. With the Charter Schools Rewards Visa Credit Card, every time you buy gasoline or groceries, you're

helping raise funds for our schools. In fact, 1% of all your annual purchases will be rebated to Charter Schools, with half of the proceeds going directly to your school of choice.

Our schools can use the money for whatever they need and there is no limit to how much we can raise! But the most importantly, we need your help to do it.

This is a great credit card packed with great benefits and offers a low, fixed

rate. We encourage you to help us raise funds for our schools by applying for your Charter Schools Rewards Visa Credit Card today. You can apply online at ccu4schools.com/charter or obtain an application from the home office.

If you have any questions please contact Daphne Gustavson at (818) 559-7699 or at d.gustavson@pucschools.org. Thank you!

CALS Early College High School's QuikScience Team

Submitted by: Andrew Stephens, teacher at CALS Early College High School

The CALS Early College High School QuikScience Team composed of Ammy Reyes, Yancy Gonzalez, Geo Adan, Jaclyn Lopez, Gus Cortez, Ashley Yerena, and advisor Mr. Stephens, received an honorable mention in the USC and QuikSilver Sponsored QuikScience competition. The contest included high schools ranging from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Among the many competing teams from traditionally high achieving high schools,

the CALS team received third place.

The project focused on the ocean sciences and included five components: a research project, a video, two lesson plans, a poster board, and community service. The CALS Team focused on researching water quality in Los Angeles, teaching other students about the acidification of the oceans, and cleaning local waterways, beaches, and the importance of recycling. An overview

of the project can be seen at USC's website: www.usc.org/quikscience. The hard working scientists won a check for \$150, corn based plastic coffee mugs, USC hats, and QuikSilver T-shirts. This group of students also serves on the CALS HS Mean Green Team, which focuses on these and other pressing environmental issues.

Congratulations!

Spread the Word on PUC Schools' Recruitment Fair!

PUC Schools in holding a Recruitment Fair on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 11 am-2pm at Milagro Charter School.

Spread the word and let your friends and classmates know about our fair. We are looking for teachers for the next school year.

If you know of anyone interested in attending, please have them RSVP by emailing Patty Espinoza at p.espinoza@pucschools.org or by calling the home office.

They will need to bring the following to the fair:

- Resume
- Copy of current credential(s)
- Copy of CBEST, RICA, CSET, etc
- At least 2 letters of professional recommendations
- Letter of Introduction/Cover Letter, optional
- Unofficial Transcripts

At the fair, they can meet and greet with PUC team members and ask questions about our organization. We will also hold interviews. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

More CALS HS Students Receive their college acceptance letters!

- Almario, Caren: UC Riverside
- Encarnacion, Daniela: CSULA
- Gonzalez, Alejandra: CSULA
- Lucero, Lupe: San Francisco State, CalArts
- Morales, Genesis: UC Merced
- Reyes, Ammy: Embry-Riddle, CSU San Diego
- Tejas, Margarita: UC Riverside, UC Davis

CONGRATULATIONS!

Employee Profile: Maylen Naranjo

First of all I want to thank PUC for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the family. I look forward to getting to know everyone very soon. I was born in Havana, Cuba and when I was two years old, we migrated to California where we planted our roots in Glendale.

I am very proud to have two beautiful daughters, Johanna (17) and Alyssa (13) and on October 28th of last year married my wonderful husband Shawn. Feeling the need to set a good

example for my kids, I decided to return to school. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting in March of 2006, but am now feeling like I have to complete what I started and return to school for my Masters. These days if you don't find us going thru college information and applications with my daughter Johanna, you will find Shawn and me on the dance floor dancing West Coast Swing or Salsa.

Maylen is our Payroll Administrator.



Johanna, Alyssa, Shawn, & Maylen

PUC Schools Music Showcase Press Release from Sam Robles!

I am pleased to announce the first ever PUC wide musical showcase. This showcase is intended to highlight the different musical talents at all the PUC Schools. Students from Lakeview, Community Charter MS, Excel, CALS MS, & CALS HS will be performing on this very special evening. The show will be held at **Dr. Music in Eagle Rock on Friday April 20th at 8pm. Dr. Music is located at 1812 Colorado Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90041-1340.**

This opportunity is for students to experience a real-world performance situation. Dr. Music has become a new musical venue for Northeast Los Angeles and we are privileged to showcase our music programs. This program will feature a wide range of musical styles including African Drumming, rock, jazz, funk, and salsa. Students will feature compositions by such diverse artists as the Cure, Herbie Hancock, Selena, James Brown, and Led Zeppelin.

Tickets will go on sale next week and can be purchased at CALS MS, CALS HS, and at Community Charter MS. **Advance tickets will be \$4.00 and \$5.00 for tickets purchased on the night of the show.** This will be a great opportunity to show your support and dedication to the arts programs throughout the PUC schools!

View Your Benefits (Medical, Dental, & Vision) & Order ID Cards Online!

A great way to see what **MEDICAL** coverage you have is to register on **www.calchoice.com**. By registering you will be able to view your coverage, update your address, order ID cards, and print reimbursement claim forms for medical, etc.

To register, click on the **Not Registered?** link and choose **Member** on the drop down menu.

All you need to register is your social security number, date of birth, and home zip code.

Please remember that on Cal-Choice's website, you will only be able to view your Medical coverage

You can also register to see what **DENTAL** coverage you have. To register online, go to **www.humanadental.com**. All you need is your member ID (located on your card), date of birth, zip code, and email address. If you do not have your member ID, try your social security number.

Our vision is covered by VSP (Vision Service Plan). To register online, visit

www.vsp.com. To sign up, you need the last 4 digits of your social security number, your name, and date of birth. Remember, you will never receive ID cards from VSP. When visiting an optometrist, simply provide your social security number. Online you can view your coverage, find a VSP doctor, download a reimbursement form, etc.

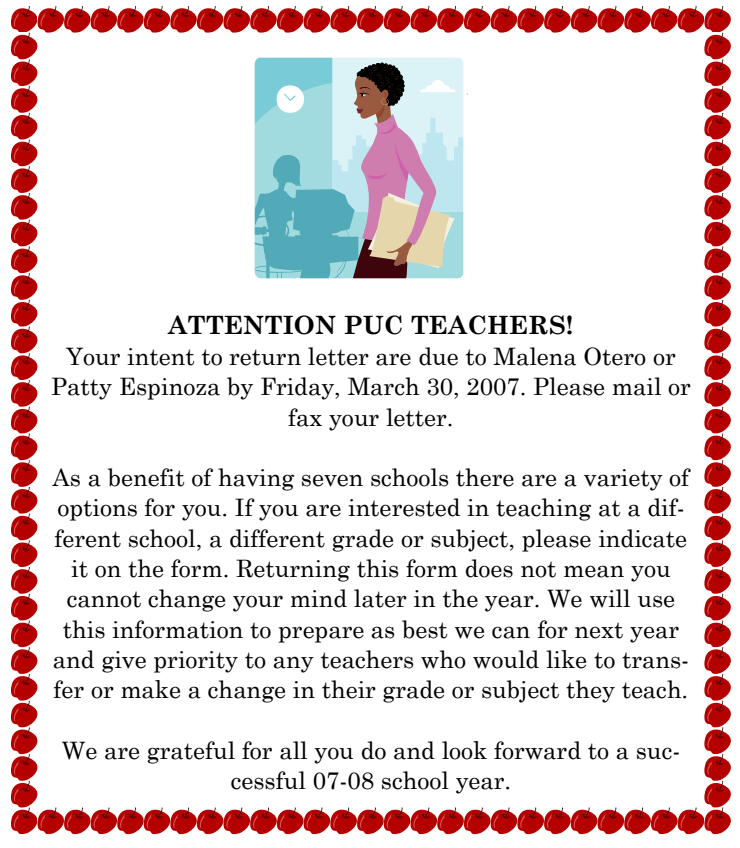
If you are considering visiting a non-VSP provider, first verify your coverage by calling 1-800-877-7195, Monday – Friday 6am-7pm, Pacific Standard Time.



We will be having a PUC Schools Recruitment Fair TOMORROW - Saturday, March 24th at Milagro Charter School to recruit teachers for the 2007-2008 school year. It will be from 11am—2pm. We invite teachers, principals, and assistant principals to make their way over to 1855 N. Main Street in L.A. (90031).

The objective of the fair is for our candidates to learn more about our organization and have a chance to speak to PUC team members. You make our schools what they are and you are the best group of individuals to represent PUC.

If you have any questions, please contact Malena Otero or Patty Espinoza. See you there and thank you for your support!



ATTENTION PUC TEACHERS!

Your intent to return letter are due to Malena Otero or Patty Espinoza by Friday, March 30, 2007. Please mail or fax your letter.

As a benefit of having seven schools there are a variety of options for you. If you are interested in teaching at a different school, a different grade or subject, please indicate it on the form. Returning this form does not mean you cannot change your mind later in the year. We will use this information to prepare as best we can for next year and give priority to any teachers who would like to transfer or make a change in their grade or subject they teach.

We are grateful for all you do and look forward to a successful 07-08 school year.

PUC TEAM MEMBERS SHARE THEIR GREAT NEWS!

Congratulations to Sabrina Crittenden, teacher at CALS MS, on her recent engagement to Jason Plaza. Sabrina and Jason will be getting married on October 13, 2007. We wish both of you the very best!

Charles Freund, Dean of Students at Excel, had the prestige of winning the *New Yorker* magazine cartoon caption contest. This weekly event is where the *New Yorker* posts a cartoon without any caption and accepts entries as to the best caption. Having won, his winning caption will be published in this weeks *New Yorker's* issue in the week of March, 12, 2007. Congratulations Charles!

Movie Tickets and Disneyland Tickets for Sale Now!



AMC Gold Ticket

PUC Schools Price: \$7.50 each

- Valid for Special Engagements (First Day Movie Opens).
- Good at any AMC theatre nationwide, excluding Canadian theatres.
- Subject to surcharge in New York City area, Premium and IMAX locations.
- Valid seven days a week.
- **No Expiration Date!**

AMC Silver Ticket

PUC Schools Price: \$6.00 each

- Special Engagements Excluded (Special Engagements are noted at the box office and are typically removed after the second weekend of the movie's release).
- Good at any AMC theatre nationwide, excluding Canadian theatres.
- Subject to surcharge in the New York City area, Premium and IMAX locations
- Valid seven days a week.
- **No Expiration Date!**



- Regular Adult (ages 10+) Admission: \$63.00 each
- Regular Child (ages 3-9) Admission: \$53.00 each

- **PUC Adult Price: \$58.00 each**
- **PUC Child Price: \$50.00 each**
- Children 2 and under are FREE

Tickets are valid for Disneyland Park **OR** Disney's California Adventure theme park.

Tickets can be used from 1/3/2007 — 12/13/2007.

Tickets must be purchased at the home office.

All movie & Disneyland tickets can be placed on hold for you for only 2 days. Exact cash only.

Sorry no checks.

Please contact Patty Espinoza, HR Coordinator, at the home office or via email with any questions.