

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

NOVEMBER 2009

Politics '09

Obama In China

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

The Chinese government hosted President Barack Obama in his first diplomatic summit between the American leader and Chinese officials.

The two powers met November 17 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to confer on shared issues, such as global warming, the economy and nuclear disarmament.

Despite the improved attitude between the U.S and China, Obama had little else to bargain with due to the economic recession at home and two wars overseas.

"The U.S. has a lot to ask from China," Chinese strategic affairs researcher Xue Chen said. "On the other hand, the U.S. has little to offer China."

On the other hand, the meet marks a landmark in diplomatic relations between the two superpowers. The visit is the first of its kind in 30 years.

Both powers expressed an interest in discussing human rights, cooperative space exploration and issues with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One of Obama's key concerns was internet freedom, especially in the areas of censorship and blocking of sites with what is known as "the Great Firewall of China" - a government-run block on sites deemed inappropriate by the Chinese government.

"Obama's answer is very interesting, because he is the first president who talks about this, and it will move and urge the Chinese government to think," said well-known Chinese blogger Beifeng.

Obama visited the Great Wall of China before departing for South Korea on November 18.



Internet Photo

DEPARTURE: Obama at the Great Wall of China.

School Calendar Gets Polynized

Poly will adopt a new bell schedule for the upcoming school year.

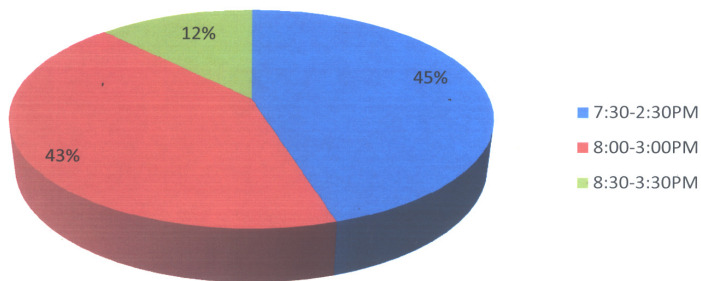
By Karinina Cruz
And Marilyn Pocasangre
Staff Writers

Poly's proposal of transitioning to a Balanced Traditional Calendar (BTC) for the school year 2010-2011 is nearing approval from the entire Poly community and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

"Even though the votes are not unanimous, the support is really strong and moving forward for the benefit of the students," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera. "Our work for the BTC has been going on for a couple of years and within the last six to eight months we picked up speed."

"Our current proposal has no definite day for completion because we will always continue to refine it in order to line up with rules, regulations and other concerns with the process," Loera

Polytechnic HS - Phone Survey Results - Bell Schedule for 2010-11



Graphic provided by Ari Bennett

POLL: A slim majority of Poly's community voted for a 7:30am to 2:30pm bell schedule for the '10-'11 school year.

added.

The BTC staff election results came out on October 27 with 128 votes of approval and only fifteen votes in objection or in favor of the Traditional Calendar instead.

"Some of the concerns that I have heard to be the reason for objection is that some teachers with small children may have had their issues with the schedule," said Loera. "However, with almost 90% approval, it shows real confidence about the good things we can do with the reorganization of time to better improve instruction."

According to Loera, Poly

students voted through shared decision-making and the student site council, which represents the student body as part of the community.

Members of the student site council include Poly seniors Gabriela Burciaga, Maciel Luna, Alex Serrano and Poly junior William Leiva.

"We had a number of discussions with various student groups in order to get their concerns and inputs regarding the BTC," said Loera. "They were overwhelmingly in support of adding more opportunities for intervention and

[See Calendar, pg 7]

Turning The Page

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Poly's textbook room has moved, from the room next to the library to the back of room 95.

The new room will feature a large sliding door and a loading dock, and will contain the old textbook room's entire inventory. Any remaining books will be stored in containers throughout the campus.

Books are organized in alphabetical order via computer by SASI (School Administration Student Information) a textbook



Photo by Jennifer Martinez

RELOCATION: Christine Avila organizes textbooks in the newly relocated textbook room, now behind the basketball courts.

Inventory Control application. However, this method of organization makes it impossible to calculate the total amount of textbooks in inventory. The number of books Poly has in circulation is still unknown since books are still manually counted by title.

Currently, only one computer can be used to check out books to students.

"We plan to have more than one," said Assistant Principal Elidia Vasquez.

Vasquez, however, worries stu-

[See Textbook, pg 6]

A Hallowed Homecoming

Parrots deliver a Halloween treat.

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Poly's Homecoming this year was a compendium of fright, night and victory.

This year's homecoming game started with the traditional parade around Poly's football field. The parade consisted of Poly's clubs and athletic teams prancing around on floats or on foot with banners.



Photo by Karina Muniz

FACTORY: Junior Council atop their Willy Wonka float.

Floats from all four grade councils, Girls softball, junior varsity, Help Save a Life Club and the Grand Marshal delivered unique and interesting designs based on the "Once upon a Nightmare" theme. Along with the floats, the parade also introduced the crowd to this year's senior and junior homecoming court.

C-track ceramics teacher Karen Daneshvari was elected homecoming Grand Marshal and was absolutely honored that the students voted for her.

"I felt absolutely fantastic," said Daneshvari.

As cofounder of the Animal Lovers Club, Daneshvari's car was filled with cardboard animals. Fellow art teacher Terry Nield provided the convertible car for the float.

At halftime, the Poly band performed a variety of songs moving across the football field in perfect formation. The honor guard flag girls waved their flags, working alongside the band flipping and throwing the banners up in the air. The show continued with the North Hollywood band taking the field next and performing for both sides of the crowded stands.

The winner of most spirited float in the parade was announced at halftime. The first place \$300

[See Homecoming, pg 5]



Spirit of the Season

See Page 4



Ready Set Charge

See Page 6



Homecoming Highlights

See Page 8

Poly Parrots Come Together

By Daniel Martinez
and Jizel Emralino
Staff Writers

Poly’s new H.E.A.R.T Program (Human Efforts Aimed at Relating Together), created by Joell T. Juntilla of the Los Angeles Unified School District in 1991, was formed to build bridges between different high school “cliques,” so as to prevent fights and provide students with a “safer learning environment,” says Armando Figuera.

11th and 12th grade dean Levon Yeganyan is the sponsor of the HEART Program at Poly. Tenth Grade Counselors Maria Padua and Ana Gutierrez also help out in the meetings.

“The program’s main goal is to mediate conflicts and involve as many students from different groups as possible,” said Yeganyan.

148 students were initially chosen by different teachers to be in the program.

LAUSD employee Alfredo Palomares is in charge of training the members about the basics of human relations.

In their first meeting, Palomares talked about the common problems in school. Such topics include stereotypes, racism, and sexual orientations.

“He taught the members that in order to mediate a problem, they should have to learn how to listen to the student’s problems, and find neutral grounds,” said Poly junior Lalita Boonin. “It’s easier to talk

to students than your teachers about your problems.”

“That is what the program is offering: a fellow student who is there to listen whole-heartedly when nobody seems to care.”

This mediation is done by bringing the two parties together and let them talk the problem through.

Members observe the conversation and intervene only if necessary. In cases of physical fights, the members are strictly instructed not to get involved and to call security immediately.

“The program is open to everyone,” said Yeganyan. “Diversity is key into understanding the behaviors of different students in various cliques.”

Students who are in need of the HEART’s services are always welcome to talk to their counselors or any member about their case, and they will surely get a helpful response - straight from the heart.



Photo by Jennifer Martinez
MEDIATOR: Poly dean Levon Yeganyan sponsors the H.E.A.R.T Program at Poly.

EDITORIALS

Societal Degradation

On October 24, 2009, a 15 year old girl in Richmond, California was waiting for her dad to pick her up, after having attended her school’s homecoming dance. A friend of hers lured her into an alley on campus where she was offered alcohol. She soon became drunk and passed out. The men who were with her decided to take advantage of her state of unconsciousness.

They began to rape and beat her over the course of two and a half hours. Police estimate at least ten people took place in the rape, but so far only seven have been arrested and charged.

Has our modern society become so twisted and vain that people won’t act against a brute raping of a

young girl because it doesn’t involve or affect them? Have we all become deaf to the needs of others? Is this what our generation must hear on the news everyday on the news, how someone was robbed, raped, or killed? How people witnessed the attack but never called for help because they were looking at themselves in a mirror, texting, or tweeting about pointless trivialities no one really cares about.

This should be a wake up call to the world. If we don’t change soon and pay attention of the sufferings of those in our communities and societies as a whole, instead of advancing as a race, we will become uncivilized and inhumane.

Main Entry: se-nior-i-tis

By Daysi Neiro
Staff Writer

Pronunciation: \see-nyor-eye-tis\

Function: noun

Date: 1957

An ebbing of motivation and effort by school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades

Seniors, it’s that time of our year! For three long years, we have been stressing out with our challenging courses, taking all sorts of exams, and preparing for college admission. High school seniors all over the state of California are applying to colleges.

Several seniors working feverishly in the college office said, “College applications are our

number one priority and are number one stress right now.”

The pressure to make application deadlines for college is on. October and November will be the most stressful months of our senior year. Most Cal State and UC applications are due in November 30th.

High school senior Violet Perez states that as a part of the pressure she has as a senior “Relationships are also a stress. Relationships lead to drama, drama leads to stress, stress leads to laziness in school work.” Senioritis is spreading.

Surprisingly seniors, it is not the time to slack off and take it easy. Challenging courses and extracurricular activities should not be dropped. The pressure may seem overwhelming, but there is a lot of help out there.

Mrs. Warman, college counselor, is in the college office to help all students attending college. Mrs. Warman states, “There is no reason for students to do it alone and last minute!”

There are tons and tons of opportunities being offered to all students in the college office. Representatives of schools come to Poly every week, and work-

shops to aid students with their applications.

In addition to the help offered here at Poly, there are websites that specialize in helping students with finding scholarships and applying to college. Websites such as www.collegeboard.com, www.fastweb.com and www.finaid.com help students as well. There is a lot of help out there for seniors, we just have to go out and get it.

On top of the pressure for making application deadlines, colleges require for applicants to have taken the SAT’s and the ACT; most colleges will not be accepting test scores after December. Community Colleges do not require the SAT and ACT scores.

In order to take the SAT’s and the ACT exams, more deadlines are to be met. The deadline to register for the SAT’s on December 5th passed on October 30th. Likewise, the deadline to register for the ACT was on November 6th.

For further information Mrs. Warman is in the college office to help seniors in applying for college. All seniors should take advantage of the resources that surround them.

Something caught your interest?
Write a Letter to the Editor!

All letters must be submitted to Room 14 or placed in Ms. Matlen’s box.

THE OPTIMIST

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**LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and include the writer’s signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Mr. Blau’s box.

**EDITORIAL
POLICY**

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community and accepts the responsibilities of a free press. The OPTIMIST follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff writers.

College

College Class Course on Cultures

Ukranian immigrant finds the American dream in a class full of students.

By Jennifer Escobar
Staff Writer

Anthropology professor Robert Bimbi spoke to the OPTIMIST about the subject and about himself. Here's what he said:

THE CLASS

Q. Why did you decide to major in Anthropology?

I really love learning about different cultures.

Q. What caused you to teach a college course in a high school campus?

I was offered this class and I was happy to take it. I've taught high school before.

Q. How did you hear about your current job?

I heard about it while working at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC).

Q. Where have you worked throughout your career?

My research took me to Hungary, where I studied immigrants and refugees.

Q. What college did you attend?

I went to three colleges. For my bachelors degree UC Riverside, for my masters degree Cal State Long Beach and for my PhD Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Q. What are your plans for the future?

I love teaching, so I will continue as a college professor.

Q. Why did you choose culture as your specialty?

I think that culture is fascinating. Our world is so diverse that there are so many cultures and it is very interesting for me to learn all the details.

Q. Where have you traveled due to anthropology?

All over Europe. I lived in Budapest capital of Hungary for one and half year in 2001 and 2002, but traveled all over Europe.

Q. What drew you to teaching?

I taught high school in 1996-1997, just after I got my Masters' degree, and I enjoyed it. But it wasn't until I worked as a teacher's assistant (TA) for some of my professors when I was in graduate school that I experienced teaching at the college level, and I realized how much I enjoyed presenting the information to groups of people who were really interested in the subjects that I taught.

Q. What's the last book you've read and what did you like

Photo by Jennifer Martinez

CULTURE-WISE: Bimbi's passion for studying people drove him to pursue a degree in anthropology.

about it?

"Everyone Eats" by E.N. Anderson. It's an amazing book that explains why people around the world eat what they eat and the strong cultural meaning of various foods. Dr. Anderson is a former professor of mine from UC Riverside, and this book is incredible. I was so impressed and inspired by it that I created a whole lecture about food based on it.

THE TEACHER

Q. Where did you grow up?

I was born in Ukraine, in the former Soviet Union, and lived there until I was 15. This was back when the country was still communist, which was very different from the rest of my life. Still, I have fond childhood memories, because our family lived pretty well, and maybe because I was too young to understand my parents' worries.

Q. What was life like in Ukraine?

I was a child at the time so for me it seemed easy, but for my parents, it was difficult.

Q. What cultural difference did you experience when you arrived in America?

Almost everything was different, but mostly the weather. There's

no snow here.

Q. How long have you lived in the U.S.?

I have lived in the U.S. for 22 years.

Q. Who do you find inspiring?

My parents are my main inspiration. Like most immigrants, they came to the United States with very few possessions and hardly speaking English, and pursued their American dream through very hard work, carefully spending and saving, and staying strong no matter what life threw at them.

Q. What do you think is a better experience - high school or college?

College was definitely much more fun for me. I went to an all-boys high school, in which I was the new, immigrant kid, with few friends. It all changed when I went to college - I had lots of great friends and a great time.

Q. What other occupations have you worked in?

Wow, I've worked all sorts of jobs when I was in high school and college. I worked as a waiter, a bartender, a bank teller, a DJ on the radio and at the clubs, etc. After graduate school, I worked for a market research company, and

I've taught at various community colleges in the LA area.

Q. What do you do outside of school?

Music and travel are my biggest passions. I have been a huge music fan since I was about 13, and I've been collecting records (old school hip hop, soul, jazz and heavy metal) for about 15 years. I also love to travel and see new places-it's very exciting.

Q. Have you had any bad experiences while venturing into different cultures?

Yes, I was chased once in the middle of the night by some guy who tried to rob me.

Q. Where do you like to go in Los Angeles?

I have three: Runyon Canyon (for hiking), Amoeba records (for music) and El Gran Burrito (for the best lengua burrito in town).

Q. Who are your best friends today?

My close friends today are people whom I've known for a very long time, and they are not teachers, most have started small businesses. My brother, who I'm close with, is a social worker, and my wife (my best friend) is studying to become a CPA.



Photo by Jennifer Martinez

IN SESSION: Students take notes in Bimbi's Anthropology class. The course is offered first period from 7:25am to 9am.



Homecoming Horror Night





Photo provided by Yearbook Staff
ROYALTLY: A-track seniors Jesus Ceja and Gabriela Burciaga were chosen as this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

[Homecoming, from pg 5]

dollar prize for most spirited float went to Junior Council with their "Willie Wonka gone evil" float. The float was well put together, presented vibrant colors and had a 12 foot wooden factory as the background, scattered with characters from the famous movie Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory such as Charlie, Violet, and a group of Oompa Loompas. Second and third place went to Drill and Girls Softball Team re-

spectively, with prizes of \$100 and \$50 dollars. This year's homecoming King and Queen were also presented during halftime. A-track seniors Jesus Ceja and Gabriela Burciaga claimed the crown from last year's winners. As the king and queen where crowned, a barrage of fireworks filled the night sky above the field. The night ended with a Parrot victory over longtime rival North Hollywood, 47-6.



All photos by Jennifer Martinez, Karina Muñiz and Monica Sagastume

WIRELESS CHARGING AHEAD

Powermat has revolutionized the way we charge electronics.

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Say goodbye to cords and clutter. Powermat is a device designed to reduce the clutter and confusion of electronic wires. The Powermat uses a magnetic pull that holds down a magnetic receiver and transports power to iPods, iPhones, cell phones, laptops, Nintendo DS and anything else with USB ports.

Powermat products include the Home & Office Mat, the Portable Mat and receivers.

The receivers (one Powercube included with the mats) are a separate purchase and are required to charge electronics on the Powermat. The receiver is fit on an electronic like a case or connected to the electronic like a USB cable.

The Powermat has a magnetic alignment so the user never misses the charging point. The technology also uses an audio conformation to let a user know the electronic is either charging or disconnected. The device produces charging light indications as well as an automatic shut off system for full charged items.

The Powermat includes a USB port to charge from other sources of power. The product is also environmentally friendly because the mats use less energy then normal wires.

Powermat first introduced



Internet Photo

WIDE FIELD: The Powermat can charge several devices at a time but requires an adaptor for each.

their products in January 2009 at the CE (Consumer Electronics) in Las Vegas. The company demonstrated how the Powermat can transform an office and kitchen once installed, however, that concept has not reached the market yet.

WildCharge and other companies like Duracell myGrid also produce wireless charging mats.

“The other mat I tested, Duracell’s myGrid (\$80), was less impressive. It had sluggish charging times and more limited usability,” says Associated Press journalist Rachel Metz.

Unlike the Powermat, Duracell’s & WildCharge’s products use heat transfer. WildCharge pads are \$79.99 and can charge up to four devices.

The Powermat Home & Office Mat is \$99.99 as well as the Portable Mat and the receivers vary from \$29.99 to \$39.99.

“But overall, because of its greater compatibility with gadgets and faster charging times, Powermat offers a better option, even if it is more expensive,” says Metz.

Textbook Room Relocated

[Textbook, from pg 1]

dents will tamper with the computers. Vasquez claims any staff member can scan books and hand them to students for use.

Around 75 teachers need books at any given eight-week mester and estimates of 2100 books are handed out. Only one clerk is appointed to the textbook room.

Magnet books are scattered around campus and have no central location, but are controlled by Jayne Couchois Magnet Co - Ed.

“We are still looking for a place to store them,” says Vasquez. “Ideally we plan to have them in one location.”

In the moving process asbestos was found under the shelving units.

“We found asbestos, which is commonly found in schools built in the 1950’s, but it is under control,” said Principal Gerardo Loera.

Loera assures all the Poly School community that there will be a full abatement. However, no date has been set.

The textbook room was moved because the original room contained limited space.

When Poly changes to a balanced traditional calendar next school year the textbook distribution and storage will be easier, according to Loera.

Life with Letty: Homecoming



6			3			8
		2	5		1	4
9			8	2		6
	2		9	8		
		4	7		9	
			5	1		6
8			1	2		5
4		9	6		3	
	5		4			9

Sudoku

Use the numbers 1-9 to fill in each box. Use each number only once per box. Good luck!

4	1	8	9	7	5	6	3	2
6	9	2	8	4	3	7	1	5
7	5	3	6	2	1	8	4	9
1	2	9	7	3	6	4	5	8
5	7	6	1	8	4	2	9	3
8	3	4	2	5	9	1	6	7
3	4	7	5	1	8	9	2	6
9	8	5	4	6	2	3	7	1
2	6	1	3	9	7	5	8	4

Solution to Mid-October's Puzzle



Photo by Karina Muñiz

FORMATION: Poly Band on parade at this year's Homecoming.

Poly Band On Rampage

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly's Band was awarded the first place prize in the Heart High School Rampage Battle of the Bands on November 7th, which took place in College of the Canyons.

“I’m glad that we won as it is good for the students to have their efforts rewarded,” said Poly Music Director Stephen Isaacs. “I’m quite concerned though because I want them to keep their focus and not be complacent. They are working harder and practicing everyday.”

According to Poly Band member Yvonne Urbina, the competi-

tion included high schools with the same demographics as Poly, such as Verdugo Hills High School and Pasadena High School, which won second place.

“We played the full-version of the field show that plays during football halftime,” said Urbina.

Urbina added that the band has been practicing for all of their upcoming competitions since A-track came back.

“We have another competition in Granada Hills High School in November 14, another one in Moorpark High School in November 21 and on December 12 is the LAUSD championship,” said Isaacs.

That Boy Can Dance

By Jennifer Escobar
Staff Writer

Poly senior Eduardo Ramirez is a professional dancer who not only performed in Poly's pep rally, but who also performs in various events as a professional dancer.

Ramirez was born in San Diego, but raised in Panorama City. Ramirez has been dancing for three years and learned to dance by watching MTV, imitating the dancers in music videos. He wants to become a professional dance instructor, attend college, and take some more dance classes.

"I would like to become a professional dance instructor because it is something I truly enjoy doing," Ramirez said. "Why not get paid for what I enjoy?"

Ramirez performs as the Michael Jackson lookalike at Poly's pep rallies.

Ramirez said, "The most difficult part at the pep rally was going out on stage, performing to a big crowd, and conquering my nerves."

Ramirez can also dance to any beat without music. It takes him 2 to 3 days to learn a new routine. He practices each day for at least an hour.

"The first time I performed I was really nervous, but the more I perform the less nervous I am," Ramirez said.

In addition to performing at

Poly, Ramirez is in Dynamik Kingz, a professional dancing crew outside of school. Ramirez and his crew perform in parties, quinceañeras, and schools around the LA area for pay.

"The names of the DK members are Robert, Jeffrey, Erick, G-free, J. Wock, Rita, Alma, Jer-rick, and myself," Ramirez said. "Our style is unique because of the way we dance which helps us get hired."



Photo by Jennifer Martinez

THRILLER: Senior Eduardo Ramirez in his MJ jacket.



Photo by Monica Sagastume

BOOGIE: Jaxx educational theatre performers on stage during the "Halloween Thriller" performance. Shows were held on October 22, 23 and 24 at the Auditorium.

Poly Players Put On A Thriller

By Armando Figueroa
Staff Writer

Poly's Jaxx educational theatre school performed a "Halloween Thriller" featuring new renditions of old Halloween classics and dance sets from today's popular hits.

The show consisted of dance routines performed by Poly Students and professionally choreographed by dance instructor Jeremy Lucas.

"There are 52 students, and there are more guys than girls," said Lucas. "I cast it based on who would fit these big personalities like Lady Gaga and the Ghost Busters."

Lucas was the director of The Jaxx past shows including "Thriller" and "The Michael Jackson Tribute Show".

"Thriller weaves together favorites from the Michael Jackson show with popular Halloween songs and dances" said Lucas.

Performances were held before Halloween on October 22, 23, and 24. The feature was complimented by a performance by Poly's Rock On club during Thriller's intermission.

"We had a great time working on our show along with our choreographer Jeremy," said Poly Jaxx dancer Grace Wheeler.

The Jaxx dance crew also put on a performance for Poly Parrots

at the recent pep rally.

"The two songs we performed were Evanescence's Bring Me to Life and Lady Gaga's Paparazzi," said Poly Junior performer Franklyn Sihamaya.

Lucas is associated with Poly's after school ASAP program, which offers Poly students a variety of clubs and activities.

"I found them looking for after school programs that needed theater," said Lucas. "We found out that Poly lost their theater program so we contracted."

The Thriller performance was Lucas' last show here at Poly until next year due to recent budget cuts to the program.

POLY TO ADOPT NEW SCHOOL CALENDAR

[Calendar, from pg 1]

enrichment."

"The two breaks in the winter and summer will provide summer intersession classes," said Leiva. "I am interested in the college classes that will be offered and with only the traditional calendar, those classes will not be offered and that is why I voted yes to the BTC."

Parents will be able to vote during Back to School Night on November 19.

The BTC divides the 180 days of instruction into two blocks of time from August to December and from February to June. This allows for five weeks of intervention classes in winter and in summer. In contrast to the BTC, the Traditional Calendar does not divide the 180 days of instruction, but is followed by 60 vacation days.

"With the current economic crisis that the school faces during this academic year, we believe that this BTC will be beneficial for lower economic students,

so that they can be away from school less and have not forgotten lessons," said Loera. "We should build and not re-teach."

Several purposes of the BTC are to implement intervention and provide additional opportunities to complete A-G requirements needed for graduation.

As opposed to simply having one opportunity for intervention, the BTC would give students two chances to re-take classes.

"We will keep what has made Poly successful," said United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) Chapter Chair Robert Scott. "The BTC will provide two chances to make up classes and also classes for academic help."

Unfortunately, given the economic crisis, it is not certain if summer classes will be offered.

"The biggest thing we are trying to decide on is whether or not we will have intervention time," said Poly Assistant Principal Ari Bennett

"Hopefully our school district

sees the value of the summer school funds and that we make use of those funds," said Loera.

With the BTC schedule, students will be at lower risk of losing valuable academic knowledge and skills acquired during the school year.

"United States students have fewer days in schools than in many developed countries like Japan," said Loera. "Students should spend more time in school in order to be more competitive with international schools."

The BTC will also provide teacher professional development.

"Teacher development will improve the quality of our educational program by looking more closely at our instruction," said Loera. "We will have the time to reflect and analyze data of classroom observations to keep an environment for continuous development."

In addition, Loera stated that the BTC will maximize partnerships that Poly has with commu-

nity colleges.

"We met with the president and vice president of Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) and they will offer courses during the winter and summer breaks," said Loera. "However, nothing is set in stone because of the budget crisis."

Poly's plan to transition to a new schedule was partly modeled on other California high schools that improved due to the BTC.

"We visited Sweetwater High School in San Diego, which has similar demographics as Poly. It is one of the three other schools in California that exited PI-5 and have made greater API gains over the years," said Loera. "We call it Polynizing, in which we look at examples that would then be adjusted in order to best fit the Poly community."

According to Loera, the BTC is not unique to Poly, but is a part of a broader program.

"This possibly will snowball into a larger movement within LAUSD and other schools, but

that still needs to be determined," said Loera.

Other high schools in the LAUSD that will also transition to the BTC are San Fernando High School, Arleta High School and Sun Valley High School.

"At this point these schools are in the process of turning to the BTC," said Loera. "Their voting will take place next month"

North Hollywood High School and Van Nuys High School are also considering adopting the BTC.

As for the bell schedule for next year, the school conducted a phone survey to determine what the Poly community wanted.

"We had a phone survey at two different times to gather data" said Bennett. "As of now, we have two sample schedules based on what the survey resulted in."

According to Bennett, different entrance and exit times fitting to the minimum minutes required are being experimented with, but there is still no definite schedule.

Football

Friday Night Frights, Lights and Football

Poly parade is a scare fest, the varsity gets another easy win and halftime fireworks dazzle and delight.

By Kelsey Cruz
Staff Writer

Life is good for this year's Parrot varsity football team.

Poly leads the league in total yards, rushing yardage and points scored. Fleet-footed running back Kevin Ervin leads the league in rushing yardage, touchdowns and points scored. For the first time in six years, the Parrots will finish with a winning record. And for the first time in four years, Poly got a win for Homecoming, this one an easy 47-6 rout of North Hollywood.

Poly had 116 yards passing and 375 yards rushing for a total of 491 yards. Leading running back Kevin Ervin had a total of 193 yards against North Hollywood and running back Anthony Manriquez followed with 67 yards.

First quarter started with Ervin skidding through the North Hollywood defense 42 yards in for the 1st down. Marco Flores scored a 65-yard touchdown, and Ervin completed the 2-point conversion for a score of 8-0 with 11:33 on the clock. Ervin scored his first touchdown of the game jumping into the end zone and kicker Jesus Serna completed the kick, the score 15-0 less than 9 minutes in.

North Hollywood's 40-yard pass set up the touchdown made



Photo by Karina Muñiz

ONE MORE TIME: Poly varsity's 47-6 victory over rival North Hollywood marked the seventh win for the Parrots. Poly is currently 8-2.

by junior quarterback Jesse Craven. The 2-point conversion after was no good, leaving the score at 15-6. Ervin got another 1st down, 43-yards and Manriquez completed the touchdown. The 2-point conversion was good and the score was 23-6 3:03 left in the 1st quarter. A touchdown by quarterback Miguel Zapien ended the

quarter, and Jesus Serna's kick was good for a score of 31-6.

After North Hollywood punted twice, Ervin went all the way passed the North Hollywood defense to liven up the crowd with his second touchdown. The 2-point conversion failed and the score was left at 37-6. Poly's Marco Flores got a 25-yard run

and Marcos Hernandez followed with a 30-yard run. Both sides received penalties, but the ball was given to Poly, 1st & 15. Erick Martinez scored a touchdown and Serna made it 44-6.

Poly wrapped up the game with a field goal 47-6 in the 3rd quarter. Victory had never tasted so sweet.

Poly finally beat rival North Hollywood, and in an easy win at that. Ervin now has carried the ball 113 times for 1651 yards and 28 touchdowns. He is averaging almost 15 yds per carry and is on track to reach the 2000 yard mark for the regular season.

Lady Parrots Make the Playoffs

By Kelsey Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly Girls Volleyball dominated the regular season with an 11-1-0 league record and a 20-6-0 overall record. The Lady Parrots ranked #5 in City Division 1 and ranked #2 in their league. Poly's win against Van Nuys set them up for Sectional City Playoffs.

"Van Nuys is regarded highly, and it pulls us up that we beat them," Coach Peter Johannsen said. Poly won 3 out of the 5 games played with Co-captain Viri Gallardo revered by the coach.

"For this game, Viri Gallardo is the MVP. I could have easily picked Jocelyn Lopez, but for this game Vidi made the difference," said Johannsen.

Van Nuys defeated the Lady Parrots in the first game 11-25, but Poly won the next two games

25-19. Van Nuys tied it up with a win in the fourth game 19-25. The pressure was on. The score tied 14-14, Poly got 2 more kills to crush the Van Nuys Wolves.

"We don't always hit the mediocre sets, but we hit the good sets well," said Johannsen. For defense he said, "We let balls drop that we shouldn't have, balls we didn't go for or just let fall."

The Lady Parrots' first playoff game was against Marshall. Their lack of defense in the first couple of minutes of the first game led to an immediate time out. "We got to pass and cut down on errors," were Johannsen's only words.

Poly's offense and defense still did not fit Johannsen's standards.

"We could have played much better than how we played tonight. We tightened up on the 2nd and 3rd game, but the 4th we didn't do anything special, Marshall did all the mistakes," Johannsen said.

"In the 1st game, we were out of it, all of us were nervous," said Gallardo. Poly lost the first game 19-25, but was victorious in the next 3, the scores 25-12, 25-17, and 25-8.

"All of us could have done better. They wouldn't just give it to us, I knew we needed to try and fight for it," Gallardo added.

The Lady Parrots tightened up their game against their next opponent, the Colts of Carson High on November 12. "Our true test will be against Carson," said Gallardo.

Poly lost to Carson in three straight games in the Quarter Finals. Captain Jocelyn Lopez responded to how they did on the game. "We were mentally weak, and it showed on the court last night. We broke down as a team," Co-captain Viri Gallardo said. "I wasn't fully into the game, and neither were most of our team.



Photo by Monica Sagastume

SPIKE: Lady Parrot Viri Gallardo jumps for the ball.

When one person is down, it's like a domino effect."

On the overall season Lopez adds, "I think we did good, but like I said, it was the team effort that we lacked, which is the reason why we lost and couldn't

have gone farther."

Despite the loss in the quarter finals, the juniors are excited about next year. "The key players this year are coming back, but the back row is gone, and that's going to be a big loss," said Gallardo.