

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCVII No. 10

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

JUNE 2011

Partnership Enriches Parrots Music Center brings artists to campus.

By Michelle Lopez
Staff Writer

Poly partnership with the Music Center, funded by a U.S Department of Education (DOE) SLC Grant, is bringing professional artists and artistry to Parrots and Parrots to the artists.

The partnership's three programs include 10 one-hour sessions of classroom-based work, attendance at a dance performance at the Music Center and a 12-hour internship at the Music Center for two Parrots selected by FAME English teacher Katie Marzolo.

Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe

Former Poly drama teacher Katrina Hetrick took 150 students and eight teachers to a special performance by the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe at the Music Center in mid April.

The Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe, founded in 1958, combines African-American cultural expression and the American modern dance tradition.

The Music Center sponsored the field trip, with additional funding by Dr. Janice Collins, the Small Learning Community specialist for LAUSD.

FAME students were given first priority and 30 additional spaces were distributed to the teachers outside of FAME.

"It was an excellent opportunity to gain exposure to professional modern dance," said Hetrick, "something that we don't have at Poly."

"I was moved by the performance," said Marzolo. "It wasn't only the themes of suffering and redemption the Ailey Company regularly employs, but the athleticism and beauty of the dancers."

Hetrick agreed.

"I thought the performance was absolutely wonderful" Hetrick said. "I was impressed by the physical strength of the dancers. These weren't frail ballerinas, they were muscular and powerful."

Marzolo, who has taken nearly 200 students to opera performances, has worked with the education division of LA Opera and the LA Music Center for years.

Marzolo says she gets lots of

[See Music Center, pg 6]



Photo by Alex Cadena
PROTEST: Poly Principal Gerardo Loera, third from left, joins Parrot faculty and parents in an after-school march against budget cuts by LAUSD.

Drama Teacher To Play New Role

Hetrick trades director's chair for home schooling.

By Valeria Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Poly drama teacher Katrina Hetrick, whose most recent production was the popular Broadway musical "Annie," has resigned her position. Hetrick and her husband are expecting their first child in June.

Hetrick has taught drama at Poly for six years.

Faculty members Leslie Wolfson and Katherine Marzolo will teach Hetrick's Theatre Appreciation B for the remainder of the school year.

"I don't know what will happen to the class for next year," Hetrick said. "At the moment there are a lot of staffing difficulties to work out,"

Glen Philip, part of the KYDS program, will still meet with the after school drama club. They are planning on having a play by the end of June.

"Poly is a unique place to work at," said Hetrick. "I will miss having such an amazing set of colleagues, and getting the chance to work with people who are innovative, and care about the kids. I know there are a lot of schools that are not like that."

Hetrick was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and attended Chadwick High School and Palos Verdes Peninsula in Palos Verdes.

"I didn't like being in the private school, and at the time I did not live in the area," said Hetrick. "When

[See Drama, pg 6]

Taking it to the streets

Parrots protest drastic budget cuts with street march.

By Valeria Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Sixty teachers, ten students and ten parents from John H. Francis Polytechnic Senior High staged a protest march at the intersection of Roscoe and Arleta in Sun Valley Friday.

"The protest showed that we had one purpose," said UTLA Chapter Chair and teacher representative Bob Scott, "to stop anything that hurts the education of students."

A statewide budget crisis has hit education particularly hard. The Los Angeles Unified School District projects a \$408M shortfall for the upcoming school year and has sent preliminary layoff notices to 5,000 teachers.

The protesters, who object to increased class sizes and decreased staffing, marched from 1:30 pm to 3 pm.

"It was great to see Mr. Loera, and other administrators out there with us," said Poly athletic director Kim McEwen.

Many Poly protesters later joined a larger protest in downtown LA's Pershing Square. That demonstration included unions from all over California.

LAUSD's response to the statewide budget cuts has been to fire teachers, increase class sizes and shorten the school year.

"UTLA and LAUSD both agree

that schools are underfunded and cannot educate students with the current budget for next year," said Scott.

Governor Brown wants voters to renew three temporary taxes that are set to expire in hopes of using the additional revenue to lessen the budget cuts to education. Republicans are trying to keep that proposition off the ballot and let the taxes expire.

McEwen said the marchers were great and a lot of drivers honked as they drove by.

"Poly is a great corner for visibility," McEwen said.

"When these things, happen whether it is for good, or bad, there is bonding," McEwen said. "Teachers are mostly alone in their classrooms, so it is good bonding to go out and be together."

McEwen expected a larger turnout, however.

"I was disappointed that there was a small amount of staff members out there," McEwen said. "It is mostly their peers being affected by this, so why are they not out supporting each other?"

Good As New

A colorful "Facelift" puts new life in Poly's signature mural

By Vanessa Muñoz
Staff Writer

LAUSD calls it a "facelift," but it's really more of a touch-up.

The brightening, that is, of the three-story panoramic mural that graces the south wall of Poly's auditorium.

The fresco got a fresh coat of paint recently and some slight alterations that better define the world-famous figures and their messages.

The work was funded by a \$250,000 windfall from the District, Poly's share of a \$25M settlement slated for improvements to the physical plant of existing schools.

Chameleon Construction did the mural rehab, with two artists spending the better part of a month on mechanical lifts known as scissors scaf-

folds dabbing here and splashing there.

The redefinition of some lines on the mural involved correcting inappropriately scaled portions of Martin Luther King Jr.'s palm.

The mural, known as "We're all one human race," was a gift to Poly from the senior class of 1994. Created by local muralist Mario Torero, the mural was painted by former Poly art teacher Karen Worle's class.

Eight to 12 students ascended wooden scaffolding each day to color in the outline on the auditorium wall. All art students that year were required to do some painting on the mural, according to former Parrot Lucila Munoz, one of the painters.

Students had to get permission slips from classes as well as buy the paint and rent the scaffolding.

The mural took three months to complete,



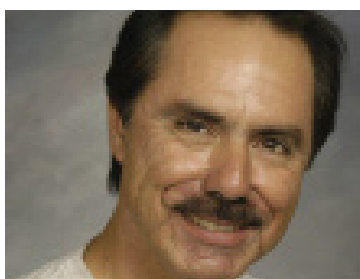
Photo by Alex Cadena

TOUCH-UP: Worker brightens up Poly's three-story 1994 mural, part of a \$250,000 "Facelift."

while the refresher painting took two workers about a month. The mural was finished May 15.

Other projects included in the facelift include landscaping for both main gates (Peoria and Arleta). Gates will be painted black and brick pavers and shrubs will be added to the entrances.

A new pedestrian side walk was added by the front gate on Arleta.



Poly Staff Photo

The Man Who Made the Murals

Art teacher Carlos Loya passes away May 4, 2011.

MEMORY - page 3

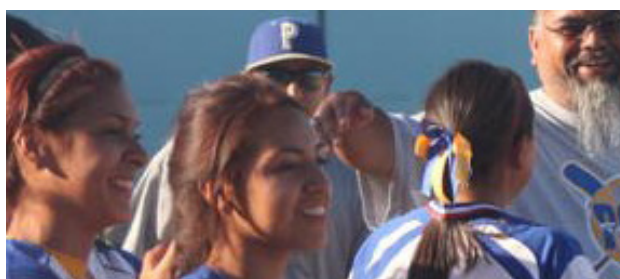


Photo by Mariana Santos

She Ran All the Way Home

Reye's steal is the difference for the Lady Parrots.

SPORTS - page 8

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Less is More

High schools on a four-day week have seen financial and academic benefits.

More than 120 school districts across the nation are on a four-day school week and finding that fewer school days are beneficial in more ways than originally thought.

Reducing the school week saves money. Fewer days means lower utility, transportation and lunch costs each week and less wear and tear on the physical plant. Schools have saved up to 9%, according to a 2009 report by the Center for Education Policy at the University of Southern Maine.

Instructional hours for the school day are increased, so teachers teach and students learn just as much.

The four-day school week can also yield educational benefits. Absenteeism has decreased among students and teachers in many schools on a four-day week. Dropout have decreased because students report feeling more positive about school. Students behave better and participate in extracurricular activities

more. And test scores, expected to fall, held steady and in many cases rose.

With a three-day weekend, students have time for more schoolwork and more leisure time with family and friends. Students are more motivated to study if they don't have to give up as much of their "social lives."

Fewer school days also gives students more time for part-time jobs. For many of today's urban school students, employment can add much-needed financial help for college.

In today's battered economy, with so many school districts deep in the red, the four-day week is an alternative worth considering.

Politicians and "outside" reformers should take a hard look at "breaking the mold" and trying an approach that all sides can accept. We think this one is worth a try.



As Charlotte Goes, So Goes the Nation?

Got the bubble-in blues? Feeling standardized-tested out?

Consider yourself lucky.

Teens in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) in North Carolina are now scheduled to take 52 tests a year.

And no, that's not a misprint. The District superintendent, a protégé of LA real estate king Eli Broad, wants a standardized test for every student in every subject, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

We're talking standardized tests for elementary art, music, P.E., band, orchestra, chorus - every class at every grade level. Sound extreme? There's more.

The North Carolina state legislature is pushing through a bill that gives CMS a blank check to use expanded testing in a new pay-for-performance plan for teachers.

Some parents are protesting these latest rounds of education "reform." But the tests have powerful supporters.

Can you say billionaire Republicans Bill Gates and Eli Broad and their tax-write-off foundations?

The way to "reform" education, say the billionaires, is to judge teachers by student "performance." And to do that, you need standardized tests. Lots of 'em.

Surprisingly, Democrat Barack Obama agrees. His administration has created a federal giveaway program called Race to the Top.

All districts have to do to get oodles of federal cash is mandate teacher and principal evaluations based on - did you guess it - student growth. Growth measured by assessments that are "rigorous and comparable across classrooms."

If you said "more standardized tests," move to the head of the class.

If these guys get their way, high school will be a battery of multiple choice tests that cover a fraction of what you should be learning in school.

And if student growth is a required part of every teacher's evaluation, then every child in every grade will have to take multiple standardized tests.

In Charlotte, the superintendent's also wants teacher pay determined by how one teacher's standardized test scores lined up against another's.

In short, high stakes testing on steroids.

So far, high stakes testing, courtesy of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), has led to a narrowing of the curriculum, widespread teaching to the test, significant amounts of cheating and lower state standards around the country.

Thank you, George Bush.

NCLB is up for reauthorization. If the new version mandates that all teachers be evaluated according to student growth, Charlotte-style testing could soon become a national reality. One that Poly is unlikely to be able to avoid.

So you may look back fondly on your high school days, but will your kid sister? Those four days of CST testing could turn into 52 for her.

The Quest for Higher CST Scores

Is offering grade boosts to students who improve their California Standardized Test (CST) scores worth it?

Approximately 39 Los Angeles campuses are offering higher class grades for students who raise their scores on the state's standardized tests.

Students who didn't care about grades to begin with are unlikely to show any improvement on CST testing just to raise their course grades.

Students who actually do well on the CST already have the motivation and the high grades.

This plan wouldn't change a thing for the majority of students.

A failing student doesn't try because he or she doesn't know the material. Students don't learn the material because they find no motivation in knowledge.

Since the CSTs aren't necessary to graduate, students don't care about the test because failing won't deny them a high school diploma.

Even if the plan to motivate students worked, the tactic

would be unfair. The letter grades would no longer reflect a student's educational aptitude.

A student who was diligent over the entire course might do no better than one who only tried on the test instead of the whole term. Grades should be earned not awarded.

The LAUSD plan makes standardized test scores superior to course grades. This plan implies that LAUSD administrators place little value on teacher grades.

When test scores supersede class grades, does that mean standardized test scores are more important?

This plan could lead to college apps filled with phony "A's" achieved by performing well on a single standardized test.

A multiple-choice test doesn't accurately reflect the entirety of a student's academic ability. Mixing CST performance and course grades is bad policy, even if it works.

Trying to make nationally standardized testing legitimate by tying it to classroom grades won't work. A pig with lipstick is still a pig.

Freedom Riders Hasten Civil Rights

Fifty years ago, 13 people began a journey that changed a nation.

On May 4, 1961, 13 people bound for New Orleans boarded two public buses in Washington, D.C.

Calling themselves the Freedom Riders, the interracial group—southern and northern men and women, many of them in their 20s—sought to test federal laws intended to help desegregate the Deep South.

For the next few weeks, the Freedom Riders traveled from one southern city to the next, trying to integrate "whites only" waiting rooms and lunch counters—and enduring arrests, beatings, and fire bombings along the way. By the time they headed home, the attention they brought to widespread segregation in the South energized the civil rights movement. And their actions culminated in landmark civil rights laws a few years later.

The Freedom Riders were "a key step in a whole chain of events that led to the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Bill," says Brian Daugherty, who teaches history at Virginia

Commonwealth University. They were "a motivating influence on a whole generation of young people."

The idea behind the Freedom Rides, sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), was simple: At each segregated bus terminal, the interracial group would seek service in the whites-only area. If served, they would consider that place in compliance with federal law. If they were arrested for violating local law, they would go to jail without resisting. "And if there is violence, we are willing to accept that violence without responding in kind," said CORE's leader, James Farmer.

But they expected—even hoped—that things wouldn't go smoothly: As Farmer put it, they were counting on "the racists of the South to create a crisis, so that the federal government would be compelled to enforce federal law."

Story excerpted from The New York Times Upfront, January 6, 2011 by Merrill Perlman.



the
OPTIMIST

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School
12431 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley, CA, 91352
<http://polyhigh.org>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor must be typed or 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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joel Hinojosa

SPORTS EDITOR

Kelsey Cruz

PHOTO EDITORS

Cindy Berumen
Alejandro Cadena
Mariana Santos

CARTOONISTS

Melissa Cuevas
Ronald Ruiz

LAYOUT EDITOR

Yenifer Rodriguez

WRITERS

Jasmine Aquino
Stephen Castaneda
Jizel Emralino
Ivan Escobedo
Valeria Gonzalez
Michelle Lopez
Vanessa Muñoz
Armando Orozco

OPTIMIST ADVISOR

John Blau

EDITORIAL POLICY

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community, and follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.

Read the OPTMIST in full
color at polyhigh.org

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

IN MEMORIUM



Graphic by Marina Turruelles

CARLOS LOYA

1954 - 2011

Veteran art teacher Carlos Loya, who joined Poly's staff in 1993, passed away on May 4. He will be greatly missed by his many friends, colleagues and students at Poly.

Dear Mr. Loya,

You are the best teacher I have ever had. You were there the very first day I transferred to Poly, when I was alone and I'm so glad I had you the entire three years I was there.

You were literally always by my side. It was in your class where I grew up into the person and artist I am today and how I met all of the wonderful people I know today.

It's through you that I am connected to everyone around me. The strings are invisible but they are still there. I wouldn't have come to know Christian and Marina the way I do. I wouldn't have come to know Ms. Nield and Mrs. Daneshvari the way I do.

Art is a powerful thing and you helped me reveal the colors of my own pallet. You accepted me 100% from the start and believed in me all the way. In fact, I was so happy to be in your class that I would have to go outside to have a sip of water so I could calm down.

I'm going to miss yelling hi to you every time I passed your classroom. I'm going to miss the way you waited outside of the door daydreaming. I'm going to miss seeing you relax to KEARTH 101. I'm going to miss seeing you eat sandwiches at lunch through the little window of your classroom (that you later blocked). I'm going to miss how ice-cold you had the air conditioner. The way you talked in your mellow voice.

I'll miss especially those rare times when I made you laugh or smile. I'll miss drawing for your class in my other classes and especially yours. Another teacher would send me away for being too loud but you were patient and didn't give up on me. You were a part of my every conversation.

I'll miss overflowing the substitute's desk with letters for you and sending you e-mails and making projects for you in ceramics and keeping a look-out for your bright red pick up truck.

I wouldn't have passed the AP Studio art test if it weren't for you and I am forever grateful. Every day and every season reminds me of our adventures together.

I prayed to God every night that he will take care of you and you will get better and the Lord has kept his promise and he gave you the world's biggest canvas, the sky.

Now you can paint the sunsets and the sun rise and choose if you want clouds in the sky and we will be looking up to see your master pieces. I love you and miss you with all my heart.

Sincerely,

With all the love in the world
Tatiana Orozco

To a Dear Friend,



In 1993, Carlos Loya was the best art substitute teacher in the East Valley, and Mrs. Worle and I used to compete for him when we needed coverage. So, it was a delightful surprise when, on the first day of school in the fall of 1993, I asked him who he was subbing for and he said "I just got hired here at Poly."

From the beginning, he promoted mural painting because that was what he studied at Mexico City University where he got his masters degree. The students loved him, not just because he was a good and caring teacher, but also because he was fun. He played fun music in the classroom and he rode a Harley. He was part of the East LA Arts scene, spending his weekends at Self-Help Graphics working on his printmaking.

As a small department, we all became good friends and went to all the district events together. The Poly Art Department developed a great reputation for being a group of strong, collegial teachers. When money became available for conventions and conferences, we started going to state and local events, traveling to San Francisco, San Jose, Palm Springs, New Orleans, Chicago, and finally, New York City in March 2011. We learned a lot and we had a lot of fun. Remarkably, three of us had birthdays within 10 days of each other, so we even celebrated our birthdays together at each other's homes.

Mr. Loya contributed to the drama department's production of "Little Shop of Horrors" by loaning his Harley for the event, teaching the student actor to ride and building a ramp to get it on the stage. He loved riding everywhere - in the San Gabriel Mountains on the weekend, helping with the Love Ride to raise money for charity, and riding across the country on his off-track times. He met his wife Cindy through their mutual love of motorcycles. He also loved to travel abroad, making several trips to Europe, once to find the Spanish town of Loya, and riding a rented Harley through the Chunnel from England to France.

Mr. Loya was a wonderful person to work with and I miss him terribly. He always said something funny to cheer me up when work was frustrating and exhausting. He loved the Three Stooges and was always reminding me to stop volunteering for everything and "just say Moe." He wanted and worked for the best for his family, his students and his friends. We were lucky to have known him, worked with him, and his mural program has left a legacy that will make him long remembered here at Poly.

Terri Nield

Dear Mr. Loya,

I can't believe you're gone. When I first heard about your condition, I was convinced that you would get better and you would come back. You were so strong, and I know it's insane, but I always thought of you as invincible. I didn't think anything could stop you. I was so sure that you would come back. We were all so sure you would come back. Months passed. Months spent waiting for your arrival. Months spent thinking you were making a recovery. Months spent reassuring Tatiana and myself that you would get better and you would come back. But I was wrong. You didn't get better. You didn't come back.

I know you fought a long, painful battle, and in the end, it was too much and you couldn't bear it any longer. I know that you were as strong as you could be, and I know that you would want me, Tatiana, and everyone else to be just as strong as you were. I know that you're not in pain anymore—that you're in a better place. And I know that you are watching over us, making sure we stay brave throughout these dark times.

But there are some things I wanted you to know, Mr. Loya. And my only regret is I wasn't able to tell you earlier.

Mr. Loya, some of my best memories took place in your classroom. I met my best friend in your class. I was able to explore my own creativity in your class. And even though I was easily distracted, I feel as though I've grown as an artist because of your teachings.

I want to apologize for overlooking your advice at times, and I only wish I had paid more attention to your words of wisdom. I wish I could've had time to learn more from you, Mr. Loya. I know that you had so much to teach. I want to thank you for giving me confidence in my artistic abilities—a feeling that doesn't come too often for me.

I miss you, Mr. Loya. And I know I always will. I want to thank you for being in my life. I'm grateful for the chance of getting to know you. You are a true inspiration, and anyone with eyes can see it. Mr. Loya, I want you to know that every piece of art I create from now on will always have a small piece of you residing in its core.

With Love, your faithful student,
Marina Turruelles



PROFILE



Field of Dreams

Photo by Cindy Berumen

Poly junior Jesusa Carvajal talks about music and singing.

By Cindy Berumen
Photographer

I remember everything with detail. I especially remember pacing all over backstage before my first performance. Adrenaline rushed through my veins as I sang the opening song, “Enter Sandman.” I can’t even describe that feeling I had knowing that hundreds of eyes were watching me perform as a musician, or what I felt when I heard their loud applause full of screams and clapping.

The Rock 101 show was truly an amazing experience. I wouldn’t be the person I am today if I didn’t take part in it. I will never forget that family bond that grew within the students and Mrs. Sho (former Poly faculty member Amy Showalter).

I learned so much about performing and myself because of Rock 101. I was looking forward to spending three more years in that class, but now I just hold on to the memories.

I love the feeling of accomplishment whenever I learn a new song. And I love learning acoustic songs full of emotion. I play covers by Tegan and Sara, The Beatles, Oasis, Gary Jules, Two Door Cinema Club, Adele, and a few more.

I’ve performed “Nineteen” and “My Number” by Tegan and Sara and “Here Comes the Sun” by the Beatles.

I like indie rock.

My grandpa played a big influence in my interest in music. He was a dedicated fan of classic rock. He would watch concert DVDs of Eric Clapton every night and I would watch them with him.

Clapton is one of the greatest musicians to ever walk on this planet. The fact that my grandfather was a big fan of his adds a sentimental feeling to his wonderful songs.

I tried to learn a song by Clapton some time ago but couldn’t seem to continue because memories and emotions got the best of me. I do plan on learning many Clapton songs soon because

I believe I’ll be able to continue this time. I’d like to learn the songs in dedication to my grandfather.

I also had an uncle who died of cancer that played the guitar, sang, and drew. I was very close to him which made him a key influence in my life.

My most favorite thing to do is play the guitar and sing. I feel bad for my family because they have to put up with my loudness.

I’ve never taken guitar or singing lessons. I won an acoustic Epiphone guitar named “Lola,” which means “grandmother” in Tagalog.

I know the music industry is very risky and tough. Working as a successful musician would be amazing but I’m not so sure if I’m good enough. I’d never fully abandon music though.

I’ve been offered opportunities to join bands and to model, but my parents didn’t allow me to because they are overprotective.

My parents have made a lot of choices I wouldn’t prefer, but I know they mean well and I respect them for that.

My parents moved here from the Philippines seventeen years ago with most of my mom’s side of the family.

I’m an only child, but I live with fifteen people, so it doesn’t get lonely. And I’m the youngest one there.

I live in front of the Kaiser Hospital where I was born. Basically I’ve lived in Panorama City my entire life.

I am a junior, although I’m supposed to be a sophomore, but I entered school early.

I like playing the guitar, singing, drawing, and altering wearable wardrobe items to my taste.

The person that influenced my life the most is Mrs. Amy Showalter Schwal. She made me realize how much potential and talent I had. She hosted the first show I’ve ever performed in and I wouldn’t be the person I am today without her help. I don’t know how to thank her for all she has done.



“I love the feeling of accomplishment whenever I learn a new song.”

ENTERTAINMENT

TECH TALK - JOEL HINOJOSA

Tablets Dominate 2011

The iPad's instant popularity created a market for tablets. Manufacturers expect to sell 50M in 2011 compared to 19M last year, while laptop and desktop sales are expected to drop. Retailers like Best Buy are already devoting more display space for tablets. Here are some of the latest.

Asus Eee Pad Transformer

The Asus Transformer tablet PC has the ability to transform into a netbook-like device.

The tablet can link to a full QWERTY keyboard (included) and serve as an everyday



computer, running on the Android 3.0 Honeycomb operating system. The Transformer is \$399, with 16GB of storage, and comes in brown or black.

Early reports say the unit has been hampered by software troubles so far, however.

Acer Iconia A500

Acer Inc.'s new Iconia A500 has a brushed aluminum look and uses the Android Honeycomb operating system.

Acer substitutes its own apps for Honeycomb's, but most perform worse, according to reviewers.

"Acer's apps hurt more than they help," said Sean Hollister of Engadget.

The device's 6 hours of battery power is not



extraordinary but not dreadful. Stills and videos, on the other hand, are a different outcome.

The Iconia has a two megapixel camera up front and a five megapixel in back, but the lens is hard to focus. The 720p video recordings aren't much better.

The Iconia is \$449.99 with 16GB of storage and supports microSD of 32GB. The battery is good for six hours.



BlackBerry PlayBook

Research In Motion's attempt to crack the tablet market may be short-lived.

"It's something of a serious tablet when compared to the competition running software from Apple and Google, said Tim Stevens of Engadget. "And, while it certainly has games, its biggest strengths are rather more boring."

The Blackberry Playbook lacks a great App Store feature and is no match for the iPad's thousands of apps. But an app swipe feature

allows the user to just swipe across the screen and switch between apps.

Users can create office documents such as Word DOC files, slideshows and Excel spreadsheets.

The browser is fast, has nice full desktop feel and uses Flash Player 10, unlike the iPad.

The Playbook has a front facing three megapixel camera and five megapixel back camera and records 1080 MPEG4 video.

The PlayBook ranges from \$499 (16GB) to \$599 (32GB) and \$699 (64GB). All models are Wi-Fi only and 4G models are expected soon.



Motorola Xoom

Motorola's Xoom was the first tablet with an Android 3.0 Honeycomb operating system to appear at the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show. CNET called the Xoom the "Best of the CES 2011."

"Xoom is certainly a contender for the hearts and minds of potential tablet buyers in the market," said Joshua Topolsky of Engadget.

The tablet's software has a space-age-like interface and user-friendly components.

The Android 3.0's soft focus neon and cold, hard digital angles may make it look like something out of Tron, but the Android lacks sufficient apps compared to Apple's App Store.

Google has been slow getting tablet titles into the Android market, according to Topolsky. Carrier commitments being asked of first-time buyers also make the Android less attractive.

At \$599 for a Wi-Fi model with 32GB of storage, the Xoom is pricey. Verizon offers a 3G model with 32GB of storage for \$799.99 that is upgradeable to 4G LTE.

The Other Four

Now that the Big Four of Thrash metal have done their thing, it's time for their lesser known counterparts to take the stage together.

By Jasmine Aquino
Staff Writer

Getting the Big Four - Metallica, Megadeth, Anthrax and Slayer - on the same stage has been the ultimate concert for headbangers for years.

Suddenly, last summer, the impossible happened. The Big Four at last shared the same stage during a European tour. Domestic thrashers demanded equal treatment.

Their demands were finally met in April when the titans of thrash played the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California at the Big 4 Festival.

An estimated crowd of 50,000 roared their approval.

The encore began with all-bands-on-deck cover of Diamond Head's stomper "Am I Evil?" and then got historic when notorious rivals James Hetfield (Metallica) and Dave Mustaine (Megadeth) shared a hug and jammed together.

But all this hoopla ignores the possible thrills of another, if less obvious concert by the "Other Four" - Overkill, Exodus, Testament, and Nuclear Assault, themselves major forces

in thrash.

Overkill's brutal pounding speed and technique and Bobby "Blitz" Ellsworth's gravel vocals gained them a strong following in 1984. Their shortcoming was musical diversity.

The thrashers succeeded, however, with albums like 1985's "Taking Over" and 1988's "Under the Influence," full of songs with demanding instrumental parts and angry lyrics.

Overkill also earned a nomination for "Ironbound" in the Metal Storm Awards 2010. Although they didn't win, they received more votes than fellow thrash band, Exodus.

The arrival of Metallica in 1982 unceremoniously demoted Exodus, one of the kings of the San Francisco Bay Area metal scene. While Exodus' 13 album career has been hit-and-miss, they influenced at least two new generations of bands in the genre they helped popularize.

Exodus has had numerous lineup changes, including the departure of current Metallica guitarist Kirk Hammett, two hiatuses and two deaths.

With nineteen upcoming US tours this year and their newly released album, "Exhibit B: The Human Condition," Exodus career now spans thirty years.

San Francisco's Testament, once on the



Google Image

SECOND BILLING: Overkill, one of the "Other Four," might play with the other three soon..

verge of challenging their most obvious influence, Metallica, has yet to make the platinum plateau.

Inconsistent material, faulty business decisions and the genre's dwindling appeal have all hampered Testament's career.

Testament's most successful albums, "The Ritual" (#55 on the Billboard 200) and "The Formation of Damnation" (#15 on Germany's Top 20) still find appreciative fans of Steve Souza's minor key tonalities and Eric Peterson and Derrick Ramirez's dirty guitar solos.

Nuclear Assault's bass guitarist Danny Lilker, who was fired from Anthrax after their "Fistful of Metal," formed the band with guitarist/vocalist John Connelly, another Anthrax alum. alongside guitarist Mike Bogush and

drummer Scott Duboys.

Nuclear Assault released six studio albums but never found commercial success at the time.

After reforming in 2002, Assault recorded "Alive Again" and toured with Testament and Death Angel, then with Exodus and Agent Steel. In 2005, Assault followed "Third World Genocide" with more touring.

Overkill, Testament, Exodus, and Nuclear Assault were among the most socially-aware groups in speed metal riffing and still find new generations of thrash metal fans.

No tour dates with all eight bands have been announced, but with the success of the "Big 4" proven, a "Big 8" concert is more likely than ever. Keep your devil horns crossed.

CAMPUS

Drama Teacher

[From Drama Teacher, pg 1]

my family and I moved, I decided to attend the public school."

Hetrick studied drama at New York University and graduated in 2001.

After graduation, Hetrick worked in the film and television industry doing set dressing, construction and props, and later as art department coordinator.

Hetrick worked on several different films and television shows, including "Six Feet Under," "The Legend of Zorro" and "Entourage."

One job always led to another, Hetrick said.

"It really is about who you know."

Hetrick joined the Poly faculty in 2005.

"In the winter of 2008, I did my first play, "The Illiad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less," Hetrick said.

Other Hetrick productions included "Grease," "High School Daze," "The Jungle Book," "Twisted Tales and Ridiculous Rhymes" and "Annie."

"All the students work so hard," said Hetrick. "Marina Turrueles has been in drama for a long time. She has been in four of the six plays, and she designed the posters

for many of the plays."

Hetrick also cited junior Gabby Melendez and sophomore Christina Tserunian as veteran performers.

Hetrick cited her mother, a dance teacher at Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, as her main influence.

"I grew up around her," said Hetrick, "and the program exposed me to a lot of art and theatre."

Hetrick met husband Jim, who grew up in Wooster, Ohio, on the internet in 2003.

"We just started talking," Hetrick said.

The two married in 2008.



Photo By Alex Cadena

DRAMA: Six-year drama teacher Katrina Hetrick has resigned.



Google Image

DETECTIVE: Cole Phelps, the protagonist of "L.A. Noire," is a former member of the Marine Corps who joins the Los Angeles Police Department.

Gritty City, Nifty Game

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Rating: 8.75/10

"L.A. Noire," a complex detective adventure set in 1947 Los Angeles, captures the dark and dangerous world of crime, drugs and mobsters.

Players take the role of detective Cole Phelps, a decorated WWII vet and newly-appointed LAPD detective charged with investigating a series of murders that tie into the real-life Black Dahlia killings. Every piece of evidence, every clue, and every log in the notebook brings players closer to cracking the case.

The storytelling is original and punchy. The game isn't focused on senseless gun play as opposed to other hits like "Call of Duty" and "Halo." "Noire" makes the players use critical thinking and the process of elimination to pass the game.

The case exploration becomes a

bit of a hassle. Repetitive tasks and redundant interrogations might bore players used to constant explosions. More action sequences could have broken up the long investigations to make the game less mind-numbing.

Team Bondi's motion capture technology effectively captured the facial movements of real actors as 3D models. Actors put genuine expression, emotions and dialogue straight into the game. The results are amazing. The digital characters are as real as living, breathing human beings.

The interrogations are gripping. Every accusation must be backed up with evidence and one mistake could cause the case to go under. Ultimately, the player's choice determines the story's conclusion.

Rockstar Games is known for its open-world environments and fast-paced adventure games ("Red Dead Redemption") and "L.A. Noire" is no exception. A great original story and top notch graphics make "L.A. Noire" well worth owning.

Music Center Partnership

[From Music Center, pg 1]

positive feedback from opera staff on the appearance and behavior of Poly students.

Madelaine Dahm

Poly students in Marzolo's Language Arts class and Hetrick's Theatre Appreciation class are currently working with British dance artist Madelaine Dahm to create original performance material.

"Dahm is a creative person and an excellent teacher," said Hetrick, "and she brings a lot of interesting and unique ideas to our sessions."

The students are learning the opening sequence to Alvin Ailey's "Revelations" and trying out choral speaking techniques using a poem by Pablo Neruda.

Students will perform their own original poems and speeches in the auditorium on June 15.

The hour performance will feature individual students doing a one-minute monologues and small groups performing Alvin Ailey's "Revelations."

"Ms. Dahm's work takes it to another level!" said Hetrick. "By incorporating movement with their original texts, she is exposing them to a more abstract and interpretive form of performance."

Dahm works with the students on incorporating gestures and movements, using choral speaking techniques and staging the pieces so they work together as a whole performance.

The opportunity to work with a professional artist and explore the art of theater and movement in depth is a valuable experience for students, Hetrick and Marzolo believe.

Metamorphosis

In Marzolo's Advanced Composition class, Dahm is using Franz Kafka's novella, "The Metamorphosis,"



Photo by Alex Cadena

WORKSHOP: British dance artist Madeleine Dahm, who trained at the Martha Graham School, is conducting a 10-week interpretive dance workshop at Poly.

which deals with themes of alienation, isolation and introspection.

Students will perform one-minute monologues based on those themes.

Students in Hetrick's theatre class study inspirational pieces by Pablo Neruda, Harlem Renaissance author Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and Nelson Mandela and then write original poetry.

Internship

Juniors Berlin Perez and Gerardo Sanchez will intern with the Music Center, shadowing tours and observing a dress rehearsal and a dance performance in June and July.

Marzolo chose students who showed a high interest in fine arts.

The Music Center will work closely with schools to create an art connection with students.

"It's about finding meaning in the fine arts in an educational environment," said Hetrick.

SUDOKU

June 2011

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

May Solution

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

Adventures of Jack and Jacky

by Melissa Cuevas

Me and My Monkey by Ronald Ruiz



SPORTS



Photo provided by Toby Bachenheimer

SKY HIGH: Poly's varsity volleyball squad, shown here defeating West Adams in a playoff match, was seeded #3 in the Division 1 City playoffs, a first for the Parrots.

A Season of Successes

Parrot volleyball team's #3 playoff seeding and semifinal finish cap 12-0 league play.

By Kelsey Cruz
Sports Editor

This was the most exciting, entertaining boy's volleyball team I can remember since I've been here at Poly," said veteran Parrot athletic director Kim McEwen. "It was the highest seeding for a boy's volleyball team since I've been here."

The Parrot regular season wins were all 3-0 except for a tight 3-2 victory over Monroe and two 3-1 triumphs over Verdugo.

The Dolphins (28-11, 12-0) beat Poly (21-7, 10-0) 25-20, 25-23, and 25-10 before losing to Granada Hills (21-3, 10-0) 3-0 on Saturday.

Momentum shifts made the first semifinals game between Poly and Palisades interesting, with ties at 18 and 20 before the Dolphins took over.

The Parrots started the second game with a one-man block by senior Manuel Sanchez,

a kill from senior Jose Tinajero and another one-man block by Sanchez, who had four of the Parrots' first five kills.

Poly led by as many as seven points but then crumbled down the stretch. The Dolphins, down 12-19, tied the match at 21, largely on free points. Down 24-23, Poly served a net ball to hand Pali the close one.

The Dolphins played with confidence and the momentum of the home court crowd in the third game, while Poly was often out of sync. Too many Dolphins' points came from blocks that ended on Poly's side of the net.

The Parrots made one last, brief stand when junior Ricardo Nolasco got Poly their seventh, eighth and ninth points from two kills and a one-man block. But Palisades dominated the rest of the way.

"Even though they didn't make it to the finals, they have nothing to be ashamed about," said McEwen. "They did fantastic."

No Playoffs for Baseball

Pitching problems plague Poly's lackluster season.

By Kelsey Cruz
Sports Editor

Poly's varsity baseball team finished out of the playoffs for the first time in 35 years.

"Baseball is all about starting pitching," said Parrot head coach Gabriel Cerna. "We lost one of our pitchers to eligibility and the other was going through dead arm. It became an uphill battle."

The Parrots went 10-16 on the season and finished 4-6 in the East Valley League.

Pitching woes cost the Parrots their last six games of the regular season, according to Cerna. Veteran pitcher Josue Hernandez was going through dead arm.

"It happens to all pitchers where there is no more bite on their fastballs," said Cerna. "You go through it or rest it."

Starter Philip Marquez became ineligible after the Arleta series.

"Some of my mistakes were not staying on top of my pitchers' grades and being forced to play some guys out of position," said Cerna.

Offensively, Cerna was satisfied.

"We could compete with any team out there," Cerna said. "If you look at our scores versus Kennedy and Arleta, we were at full



Photo by Mariana Santos

FASTBALLER: Parrot sophomore Josue Moreno was part of head coach Gabe Cerna's pitching staff in Poly's sub.500 season.

strength, losing both games by only two runs."

Cerna will move junior Daniel Acosta from catcher to third base, leaving shortstop and catcher up for grabs.

"During summer league I will give different guys a chance to prove themselves."

Cerna also plans to hire two or three new coaches for next season. Assistant coach Cesar Martinez, who came with Cerna from Roosevelt High, left for personal reasons in mid-season this year.

"The future looks bright," Cerna said.

Tennis Team on a Streak

Parrots' semifinal finish concludes a strong regular season featuring seven straight wins.

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

For the first time in twenty years, Poly's varsity tennis squad went deep into the playoffs, capping a spectacular season of win streaks and breaking school records.

"From top to bottom, this is probably the most solid team that I've ever coached," said head coach Brian Block.

The team finished 12-3, entered the City Invitational playoffs seeded #1 in Division 2 and dispatched Wilson in the first round and Sylmar in the quarters before #4 seed Granada Hills Kennedy edged the Parrots by a half point, 15-14.5, in last Tuesday's semifinal match.

"I'm obviously disappointed," said Block, "but I'm certainly not disappointed in how the team played."

Poly athletic director Kim McEwen agreed. "You don't get to the semi finals often," said McEwen. "They should be very proud of themselves."

Poly's doubles players played a significant role in the success of the team's season.

Doubles #1 team, Quenten Millhauser and Maverick Santos, won 20 out of 22 matches they played.

"I've been playing with my partner for three years," said Millhauser. "We already know each others' strengths and weaknesses."

Junior Juan Almarez, doubles #2 player, share his strategy in winning games with his partner Cris Duarte.

"We just hit the ball where they're not and get opponents mad at each other," said Almarez. "We often communicate in Spanish so our opponents wouldn't understand."

The singles players were equally significant in pushing the team to the semi-finals.

One of the four "Chois" on the team, singles #1 Andy Choi won three out of four matches he played against Kennedy.

Choi remains optimistic after losing at the semi finals.

"Well, I don't really care. I mean, going to semi-finals was a really great thing," said Choi "Last year, we only got up to the second round and then we were out. I think everybody did



Photo by Cindy Berumen

SERVER: No. 1 singles Andy Choi led Poly to a record-setting season and playoff semis.

great. We just needed a little bit more work."

Team members juggled tennis and academics all season.

"We have seniors who went back and forth on college trips," said Millhauser. "Even our sophomores and freshmen players have APs to study for. Still, we practiced tennis for hours and hours every day."

"Each player on the team has an obligation to Poly and to his education," Millhauser said, "and everyone performed admirably considering the outcome of this season."

"Our chemistry shows in our game play," said Millhauser. "Honestly, I think that is what contributes most to our skill. We're not playing for us, we're playing for each other. This year was just all about fun."

Big Bats Blast Comets

Tzic's homer and Hernandez's triple power Poly to a 4-2 win over Westchester.

By Stephen Castadena
Staff Writer

The Lady Parrots jumped to an early 4-0 lead and held on to bump visiting Westchester 4-2 and advance to the CIF City finals.

Poly picked up a run in the second when senior centerfielder Yesenia Reyes scored on senior third baseman Stephanie Hernandez's triple.

Lady Parrot freshman catcher Erika Tzic led off the third with a homer to put Poly up 2-0. Hernandez and Reyes then scored on Comet errors to run the Lady Parrots' lead to 4-0.

Westchester got on the scoreboard in the sixth inning, thanks to a Poly error, and added another run in the seventh.



Photo by Cindy Berumen

TAGGED: Poly shortstop Alejandra Ramos tags out Westchester runner while 2nd baseman Anabel Soto looks on.

Poly sophomore ace Monica Mendoza notched the win, while the Comets' junior pitcher Monica Cartwright took the loss with eight hits and six strikeouts.

The Lady Parrots (16-8, 10-2) will meet the Franklin Panthers (12-7, 5-5) on Wednesday to decide the championship.

SPORTS

LADY PARROTS TAKE CITY SOFTBALL TITLE



Photo By Mariana Santos

CHAMPS: Lady Parrots celebrate after winning the CIF City Invitational Softball Championship Wednesday 4-3 against Franklin at Birmingham High. The title was Poly's second in five years.

POLY WINS ON WILD PITCH

Reyes' gutsy sixth inning steal brings home City title.

By Stephen Castenada
Staff Writer

The question at the CIF City Invitational Championship game between No. 1 seed Poly and No. 3 seed Hamilton was whose error would lead to the winning run.

A dropped fly ball by Lady Parrot sophomore pitcher Monica Mendoza and a bobbled grounder by senior shortstop Alejandra Ramos led to two unearned Panther runs in the first.

Franklin led 2-1 after the first, 3-1 after two and 3-2 after four innings.

But a wild pitch by Franklin freshman Lauren Jackson with two outs in the bottom of the sixth brought home Ruby Ramirez from third and Yesenia Reyes from second.

Those two unearned runs gave Poly a 4-3 lead that held

through the seventh and brought the Lady Parrots the 2011 CIF City Championship.

"We came out tight," Poly head coach Manny Peralta told the Daily News. "It was inexperience. We had a first-year pitcher. Simple fly balls were scary, but we settled down."

Poly's Ramirez opened the critical sixth with a single.

With two outs, center fielder Yesenia Reyes singled down the third-base line.

Ramirez barely slid under the tag at third and Reyes took second on the throw.

The stage was set. Panther catcher Nicole Saucillo played the wild pitch off the backstop fence and threw wide to Jackson. Reyes slid home unchallenged.

"I was just playing aggressive," Reyes said. "I wanted it. I knew my run was the winning run, so I went for it."

Reyes took the extra base on her own.

The Parrots stranded eight runners, including Alejandra

Ramos, who had a two-out triple in the fifth.

Two Panther runners were thrown out stealing and Vanessa Zenteno was out trying to stretch a single into a double in the sixth.

Poly's Mendoza pitched a seven-hitter with four strikeouts and two walks.

"I was nervous at first," Mendoza said. "It was my first championship game. I settled down and took it as a regular-season game. When we got the two runs, I couldn't stop screaming. My head started hurting."

Reyes and Ramirez won the game offensively, each getting two hits and scoring twice.

The Invitational crown was Poly's second during the Peralta era, the first coming in 2006.

"I am so proud of these girls," Peralta said. "We seldom get any respect."



Photo By Mariana Santos

COACH: Head coach Manny Peralta has led the Lady Parrots for 11 seasons, nabbing two City titles.



Photo By Mariana Santos

PLAYER: Senior left fielder Ruby Ramirez gets medal for helping Poly defeat Franklin 4-3 on Wednesday.



Photo By Mariana Santos

PLAQUE: Assistant Principal Dallas Blair holds Poly's 2011 CIF City Invitational Softball trophy with smiling Lady Parrots and coach Manny Peralta.