

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCVIII, No. 5

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

DECEMBER 2013

## Certification Means More

National Board certification adds prestige, cash to teaching.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor In Chief

Every Poly teacher must be licensed by the state of California to teach in the classroom.

Some teachers have also been certified by the National Board, an independent, nonprofit organization formed in 1987 to establish teacher standards and a process for certifying accomplished educators.

The National Board also gives teachers a primary role in determining standards of entry, practice and advancement, much like the legal and medical professions.

Teaching standards developed by the Board, comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath, include:

**"PEOPLE GIVE YOU A LOT MORE RECOGNITION AND RESPECT IF YOU ARE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED," SAID CARSTENS, "AND YOU GET A HIGHER PAY."**

1. a commitment to students and their learning.
2. knowledge of subjects taught and how to teach those subjects.
3. management and monitoring of student learning.
4. thinking systematically about their practice and learning from experience.
5. being members of learning communities.

National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in all grade levels and subject areas are expected to commit to these standards.

Poly teachers Monica Casillas, Larry Carstens, Dennis Madrigal and Monica Webber received National Board certification this year.

"Becoming certified is more of a reflective practice about one's teaching," Casillas said. "Going through the process allowed me to reflect on my current practices and challenged me to improve in different areas."

National Board certification has other advantages

"People give you a lot more recognition and respect if you are National Board certified," said

[ See Board, pg 6 ]



Photo by Lirio Alberto

**CRUNCH TIME:** *Sophomore Anthony Rivera wrestles at Saturday's tryout.*

## Council Discusses Communication

By Joshua Penado  
Staff Writer

Better internal communication at Poly was among the topics discussed at the November School Governance Council meeting held Tuesday in room 62.

"For a while now, we've had problems with communication and getting information out to staff, faculty, or even students," SLC Administrative Designee Kirk Jeppson said. "It's a weakness of our school."

As an example, Jeppson said a recent extended lunch schedule had not been communicated to faculty and students.

Jeppson suggested making a designee responsible for getting out all important information to staff and making sure the people doing follow up on issues know what they are responsible for. Not everyone hears from the council, Jeppson said.

Other topics discussed included pending changes to electronics and hat policy, ongoing recovery attempts of the "H" or teachers' hard drive and requirements for Pilot schools.

## Money For Nothing – the For-Profit School Scandal

Parrot Principal bans proprietary school recruiters, college counselor Warman urges Parrots to look elsewhere.

By Yesenia Carretero  
Staff Writer

Poly Principal Ari Bennett has banned proprietary schools like Devry University, ITT Technical Institute and University of Phoenix from recruiting on Poly's campus.

"I am no longer authorizing representatives from for-profit schools to present to our students," Bennett wrote in a memo sent to Poly's faculty.

Proprietary schools have professional marketers who are experts at selling, according to Bennett. Many such schools have changed their names over the last few years because of the multiple lawsuits against them.

The companies that own ITT, Devry, Westwood, and other proprietary institutions have paid millions in fines to states and the federal government for false advertising and illegal recruitment practices, Bennett wrote. The University of Phoenix has a reported 7% graduation rate and has paid in the tens of millions of dollars in fines.

Bachelor's degrees at for-profit schools cost far more than at public colleges, according to an LA Times article. ITT Tech in Indiana charges \$88,000 for its degree, while a bachelor's degree from Indiana University is about \$39,000.

[ See For-profit, pg 6 ]

## Aca Deca Tops 20K In Scrimmage

By Mayra Benitez  
Staff Writer

Poly's Aca Deca team scored 20,723 points at Saturday's scrimmage at North Hollywood High,

higher than Parrot teams that went to state the last two years.

"As a team, we are just where we need to be," said veteran Poly coach Brian Block. "I am encouraged. Based on the scrimmage scores, if we put in the effort, it will be easier to raise our team score this year than previous years."

Fifty-five LAUSD high schools competed, including El Camino, Granada Hills and Marshall. The LAUSD competition is more difficult than two thirds of the state competitions.

Teams took tests in math, science, economics, social science, language literature, art and music. Each test is about 30 minutes long and contains 30-50 questions. This year's theme is World War I.

El Camino had the highest score this year, with Poly in 14th place. Parrot teams finished 13 and 15 in the previous two scrimmages.

"The purpose of scrimmage is to find the teams strengths and weaknesses," said Block. "Once the results come in, I meet with my captains, and we discuss the approach that will get the team to state the best

way to do it with the entire team."

Parrot Honors junior Hannah Almonte was Poly's high scorer with 4,646, the highest score by an Honors ever at Poly. Honors senior Jihae Snyder was fourth with 4409 points.

Other Parrots competing on Saturday included Scholastics junior Maria De La Rosa, junior Jasmine Amezcua, senior Kristianne Villarta, senior Paola Pereda and Varsity seniors Lezleigh Millhauser and Mayra Benitez and freshman Shannon Snyder.

"Our captains Jihae and Hannah, 'Jihanna,' are a pretty good one-two punch," Block said. "All the beauty, twice the brain."

"Lezleigh Millhauser scored higher than I expected," Block said. "I was very proud of her."

Millhauser had 3254 points.

## Ninth Holds Club Rush

By Christine Maralit  
Staff Writer

Poly's Ninth Grade Center held its first Club Rush day in the Quad during lunch on Friday to get freshmen more involved in extracurricular activities.

"This is our first full year to just bring whatever the main campus has over here to our side so our kids know that they're still a part of Poly," said Ninth Grade Center Coordinator Julie Chun.

Twenty-two clubs, including Next Stop: Ivies and CyberPatriots, offered informational flyers at booths with colorful banners.

Some clubs showcased their work and gave trinkets related to their activities.

Next Stop: Ivies had informative tri-posters and Animania had an eye-catching banner.

CyberPatriot presented their laptops showcasing cyber safety and EMS Club passed out band-aids.

Faculty and students alike were concerned with isolation issues when the freshmen moved across the street last school year.

"The first year was kind of a transition year," said Chun. "We didn't have a lot of time to mobilize and get our kids involved because we were dealing with operational things like getting the center open."

Poly freshman students have always had access to the bridge connecting the Center to the main Poly campus.

"A lot of our students are not going to the other side because they

[ See Rush, pg 6 ]



Photo by Lirio Alberto

## Their Club is Active

Two frosh girls out to change the world.

**HOLIDAYS - pg 5**



Photo courtesy of Yearbook

## Hard Times At Birmingham

Football reaches Division III Finals

**SPORTS - page 8**

## OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## Christmas Child

Whenever I tell someone that my birthday is on Christmas, they say I'm "soooo lucky."

People think it's a great day to be born on because Christmas is guaranteed to be a happy day.

But being a Christmas child isn't all that it's cracked up to be.

The first misconception about being born on Christmas is having doubled presents.

I actually get less presents because I only receive them once a year.

From personal experience, it depends on the type person they are and whether they would bother to differentiate my birthday gift and Christmas present.

Most times I get one present from a person each or they give me something in pairs like earrings, shoes or socks so it's technically more than one gift.

The second misunderstanding is that people born on Christmas have great birthday parties.

While I've had spectacular home birthday parties, I can't do anything else on my birthday other than staying at home because everywhere else is closed.

Each year my birthday parties get more and more exclusive as people who aren't close families have other Christmas events

to attend.

The third misinterpretation of Christmas day birthdays is how special they are because apparently I'm God's present to my parents.

No one even knows the exact day and month Jesus was born. According to the bible, (Luke 2:7-8) Jesus was born around the time shepherds watched their flocks in the fields.

What kind of shepard does that in the middle of winter? Christian churches just marked December 25 as Jesus' delivery day because it was around nine months after early Christians believed Jesus was conceived.

Christmas usually overshadows my birthday because Christmas has been on December 25 for centuries.

Christmas is everyone else's second birthday of the year except me.

Although I share my birthday with everyone else that celebrates Christmas, it's a heart-warming feeling to know that a lot of people are happy on my birthday and that's one of the best presents I can ever receive.

Christmas shouldn't be the day to give presents to one another, it should be the day we show love and appreciation to each other.

## Santa is Turkish?

What's the deal with that fat man in the red suit leaving presents under my tree at Christmas? It's a question we've all asked since we were children. I'm finally going to answer your question.

That big man in a red suit is Saint Nicholas of Myra (now Turkey), a rich bishop that had no one to share his wealth. Nicholas was known for helping the poor by throwing money down their chimneys at Christmas. Sound familiar?

A poor man had three daughters. The girls could not wed because their father could not afford their dowries. So Saint Nicholas found out about their misfortune and dropped a bag

of money down the chimney. The money happened to land in a stocking.

Sound familiar? That's another tradition shared at Christmas - Santa leaves gifts or coal depending on whether you've been naughty or nice.

In the old days, children would place nuts, apples, sweets and other items around the house to welcome St Nick.

Sound familiar? Don't you leave cookies and milk in the kitchen for Santa on Christmas Eve?

So Santa Clause is real, just not in the way we had expected him to be.

## Don't Take Santa Out of Xmas

I never believed in Santa Claus. I didn't even know the idea of him existed until I was about eight. The first year I actually tried to believe in him I asked for a baby doll and got clothes instead. My older sister didn't find out until her teen years. We believed in our mom and grandparents to give us presents. They never failed us. They would spoil us with dolls and other girl-like toys. Back then there was never a Christmas we didn't enjoy.

Living in California I've realized Santa Claus has disappointed many children. A disappointment I didn't recognize then.

Parents easily convince their gullible kids that there is a

chunky and jolly man who brings presents if you are good. Of course parents take advantage of the whole "be good, Santa's watching you" thing and over do it. They exaggerate. Their kids' hopes get crushed. Then just when the child is fully convinced that Santa is real they get crushed again when parents get the opposite of what their child wanted.

I don't see why anyone can let this happen. I know there are a lot of Parrots with younger siblings who have been disappointed. At least try to make your siblings' childhood as magical as you wanted yours to be.

I refuse to let this happen to my younger sister who is a Santa Claus believer.

the OPTIMIST  
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## LETTERS

## What a concussion feels like

Re: "School of Hard Knocks," Nov. OPTIMIST

I play football for Poly. On November 18, 2013, I received my first-ever concussion during practice.

We were going over defense and we needed a dummy offense. They were in need of a running back and no one stepped up. I offered to play the missing spot.

We ran a couple of plays and I did an exceptional job, so they decided to keep me in the running back position. About twelve plays later, I ran the play that led to my concussion.

I don't quite remember the play. I just remember sprinting to the hole, then getting knocked out by my 221 lb. teammate.

I woke up to colorful stars and saw my coaches surrounding me. I had an excruciating pain in my forehead and the urge to vomit. My coaches ran to me, splashed water on my face and got me up to perform various tests on me.

They sat me down on a bench and kept me awake, since I had the urge to fall asleep. They told me if I fell asleep, I could pass out completely and die.

A cold chill went around my body. My eyes felt heavy and tired. I managed to stay awake and arrived at the hospital. The doctor performed a CT scan on me from my neck to the top of my head.

He went over the results with me and explained that if I received another blow that hard again, I could die or become brain dead.

I have to stay out of football for two weeks.

Since the concussion, I've had headaches, vomited a couple of times and often felt sleepy. I can't do heavy lifting exercises. I can't watch a bright screen without getting a headache. As I type this letter and look at the screen, I become dizzy and the headaches return.

- Adrian Ramos, junior

## Stories about students and teachers

Re: November issue

Great paper last edition. I loved the stories about our faculty Mr. Morillo and Ms. Daneshvari. The lead story on concussions was particularly timely and affects our kids playing football.

- Ethel Matlen, English

## In Memoriam



## Former Poly Assistant Principal Honored

Superintendent John E. Deasy directed that all schools observe a moment of silence at 8:59 a.m. and a tolling of bells at 9:00 a.m. for 40 seconds for Board Member Marguerite Poindexter LaMotte, who passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2013.

LaMotte advocated tirelessly for students, teachers, site administrators and parents throughout her long career with LAUSD and during her tenure on the Board of Education.

Join the staff  
**OPTIMIST**  
See Mr. Blau rm 14



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**  
Yenifer Rodriguez

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Daniel Lopez

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Lirio Alberto

## WRITERS

Tanneshia Acosta  
Mayra Benitez  
Yesenia Carretero  
Adriana Garcia  
Lisa Guardado

Christine Maralit  
Joshua Penado  
Emily Printor  
Yenifer Rodriguez  
Joanna Rosales

**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.

## INTERVIEW

# Music Is Her Life

Helen Tan Aragones has been playing music ever since she can remember.

Multi-instrumentalist and senior Band member Helen Aragones recently sat down with the OPTIMIST to talk about her life in music so far. Here's what she told us.

Music is my life. I use music to express myself. I channel my emotions through my music. If I'm angry, I play really loud. Music has been there for me since childhood.

My brother's been teaching me piano since I was little. There's a picture of me playing piano when I was one. I like the piano because it's the only instrument you can play with someone else. It's an instrument you can share.

My brother has been my biggest influence. He's 27, and a nurse, but he knows how to play well. We're close siblings since we're the only two in the house.

I've been in band since sixth grade. I like playing with others who share the same passion.

I play alto saxophone, trombone, piano, guitar and ukulele. I am learning flute and trumpet. After I graduate, I want to learn the clarinet, and I'm hoping to relearn the violin.

I want to be a jack of all trades. It's good to be proficient in one but I want to expand my horizons.

## Nokia Gig

I played alto sax in the LAUSD Honors Band in middle school. I was in eighth grade.

The LAUSD Honors band goes to different middle schools recruiting students and we get together to play as an ensemble.

We played the Nokia in LA. We wore the traditional concert uniform, white dress shirt and black slacks or a dress.

We played "Blue Ridge Saga," "Mambo Cubano," "Stars and Stripes Forever" and "Mars." "Mambo Cubano" was fun to play because you could dance to it and "Stars and Stripes Forever" was patriotic.

For the Nokia gig, we practiced one Saturday a month for three months. We rehearsed for three hours, had lunch and then another three hours of practice.

There were two hundred students in the program. They had orchestras and choirs. Our group had 65 members.

They gave us our music to practice at home, so when we came to rehearsal, we were ready to perform.

I am in All City this year, so I am finally going to participate in the Rose Parade. They march six miles and I'm usually dying after one, so I hope I get through.

## Born and Raised

I was born in Yokosuka, Japan in 1996. My dad was in the U.S. Navy there from 1994 to 2000.

I remember the snow was so nice and the people are so respectful. If you leave your bike outside you will find it there the next day. The city was very clean, the dogs were so cute. They even look Asian somehow. I know just the basics, like "hello" and "good morning."

The apartment we lived in was very similar to ones here. I have not gone back but it's definitely on my bucket list.

We moved to California when I was four. I was mostly raised in California, but I'm Filipino. We moved a lot before we finally settled in Sun Valley when I was in the third grade.

My mom played bass guitar in a garage band. She played in high school in an all-girls band.

Sometimes she plays the piano at home. She doesn't know how to play professionally but she will play by ear.

My dad doesn't play.

I'm in to Big Band music like Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman. I'm trying to get into classical music.

I grew up with K-Earth 101. I'm also into popular music. I have just recently gotten into Imagine Dragons and K-pop, K-rock, J-pop and J-rock.

I was very briefly in the Eco Club. I took part in Junior Council for a couple of months and I only went to Animaniam once so I don't know if they would consider me a member.

I want to go to UC Berkeley because I want to meet new people. I don't want to see the familiar faces anymore.

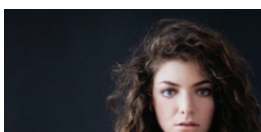
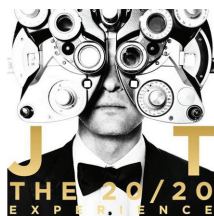
I will definitely minor in music and possibly major in mathematics or engineering. Personally I always thought I was good at math. I thought it was easy to understand. Engineering I take from my dad. He's really good at making stuff outdoors. My dad's very outdoorsy, he's well rounded so I try to make things like him.



## HOLIDAYS

## SOUND STOCKING TUFFERS

COUNTLESS ALBUMS ARE RELEASED EVERY YEAR. NEW CDS COME AND GO SO QUICKLY, PEOPLE DON'T GET ENOUGH TIME TO APPRECIATE AN ALBUM OR EVEN HEAR ABOUT IT. SO WE TOOK THIS YEAR'S STACK AND PARED IT DOWN TO JUST THE MOST ACCLAIMED NEW WORKS. ALL SHOULD MAKE GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS.



By Emily Pintor  
Staff Writer

For pop-driven friends or family members, Justin Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience" is a good choice. This is Timberlake's third album, the follow up to 2006's provocative "FutureSex/LoveSounds." Young Timberlake has accomplished much in both music and movies, creating a fan base with N Sync, transitioning into a solo career and starring in a number of movies. He is a captivating entertainer with broad appeal. Women, of course, adore him.

"20/20" shows Timberlake as a more mature artist. The songs are soulful, R&B influenced excursions that cut deeper than previous albums. The focus is on the quality of the music more than the catchy hooks of more commercial cuts. Timberlake's sultry voice goes perfectly with the romantic lyrics.

If you haven't heard enough already, 16-year old New Zealand native Ella Yelich-O'Connor, better known as Lorde, has debuted with one of the most heavily-played albums of the year, "Pure Heroine." Escaping her beat-heavy hit "Royals" is practically impossible. The album follows her EP and does not disappoint.

(clockwise) The 20/20 Experience, Pure Heroine, Magna Carta Holy Grail, AM, Modern Vampires of the City.

Lorde is 17 and her lyrics say as much, while the voice is wise and tantalizing. Her persona is working class – "we'll never be Royals, we crave a different kind of buzz" – while the sound is EDM, thudding bass, random electronica and programmed beats. It's all very angst-ridden and now, thematically seamless. "Pure Heroine" has got people talking about Lorde in hyperbole and she just might be worth it.

Jay-Z's "Magna Carta Holy Grail," probably the most promoted album of the year, went platinum before it was released. Jay-Z is a music

business veteran and "Magna Carta" is the rapper's 12th album.

The production is lavish, with pounding drum beats, deep bass and occasional melodic piano riffs, but nothing fans won't expect. The subject matter is more direct, with songs about fame, locality and family. "Jay-Z Blue" in particular speaks of his life without his father and his ability to be one. Though "Magna Carta" may not have lived up to the hype, Jay-Z's 20-plus years in the business have only improved his flow.

Vampire Weekend's third album,

"Modern Vampires of the City," will likely please any indie lover on your Christmas list. The Columbia graduates have created an almost irresistibly sweet record with reggae and psychedelic influences.

"Vampires" goes uptempo on tracks like "Finger Back," while lyrically the boys seem to be growing up, with glimpses of wisdom replacing college antics as subject matter. The piano pieces and Ezra Koenig's boyishly pure voice make "Modern Vampires" an endearing listen.

For the alternative rocker, Arctic Monkeys' "AM" delivers. Five

albums and eleven years later, these English rockers have undergone a bit of an evolution. The indie sound has had some of the edges rounded off, and the pace has softened a bit.

Don't be fooled by hints of hip-hop sprinkled here and there. "AM" is solid, power chord rock showcasing reflective lyrics and dreamy, sensitive vocals. "Do I Wanna Know's" sparsely arranged instrumental tracks set the tone for this well-crafted pop rock endeavor. Alex Turner's voice is lively and his lyrics are more intricate and thoughtful.

"AM's" influences range from R&B to classic rock, which makes for a diversity of sounds and little surprises. But there's no mistaking the Arctic Monkeys clear intent to go their own way, borrowing where and when they choose.

Whether looking for a quick gift or simply something to stuff in your brother's stocking, music is the way to go. This year's wide range of great albums gives buyers an eclectic set of options to choose from. Just add tinsel.

## Gifts for Gamers

Be sure your Santa wish list includes these goodies - all must-haves for Christmas.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor In Chief

### PlayStation Vita – Walking Dead Bundle - \$179.99

Discover the thrill of action-packed adventures in a 5" OLED screen that displays approximately 16 million colors and has Wi-Fi and 3G.

The bundle includes the PS Vita console, download vouchers or codes for PS Vita Walking Dead, Uncharted Golden Abyss, Retro City Rampage, and Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time, plus a 4 GB memory card and a charger.

The Walking Dead contains the first season's award-winning episodes plus the special episode 400 Days. In Uncharted, Nathan Drake travels to Central America in search of a lost city where a Spanish expedition was massacred 400 years ago. Retro City Rampage lets you scoop up over 30 vehicles and get a hold of 20 weapons. Sly Cooper is an action adventure game about Sly and his gang.

Don't fall for GameStop or Best Buy's \$199.99 Walking Dead Bundle that only includes the game, the console and a memory card. Compared to Amazon's deal, that's too much.



### Nintendo 3DS – Pokémon X and Y - \$36.99

With this latest generation, you can catch them all in 3D.

Roller skate through the Kalos region, modeled after France. Customize your player with everything from wardrobe to facial features. You can't do that in any other Pokémon game.

Using the Player Search System (PSS) is easy. You can find other players anywhere in the world to battle, trade with and even befriend. You can also make friends with your own Pokémon. The

3DS also allows you to pet, feed cupcakes to and play mini-games with your Pokémon for the first time ever. Once your Pokémon loves you, its fighting will slightly increase. Double win.

If that's not good enough, the new Pokémon games have two new battle styles. Horde battles are a swarm of five Pokémon against the player. Unlike Horde battles, Sky battles don't happen at random. Sky battles have Pokémon who can fly.

Have fun sitting on benches, chairs and couches for the first time.

Add Pokémon X/Y to your wish list this year for hours of fun.



### Nintendo 3DS – Legend of Zelda Bundle - \$219.99



Take a walk through thrilling dungeons in 3D – no glasses required.

This bundle contains a gold and black special edition Nintendo 3DS XL along with the new Legend of Zelda.

Shoot arrows, toss boomerangs, then merge into a painting to slide between two worlds in a top-down 3D world of deadly dungeons. In this tale, Link morphs into a living painting to cross into a dark, parallel dimension mirroring Hyrule.

The sequel runs a speedy 60fps, faster than in other games, and has 400x240 resolution. The 3DS's touchscreen and hand controls let players dash through worlds in a matter of seconds. More fun than you can stand.

## HOLIDAYS

“We started the club because we wanted to do something to help the community and something people will enjoy. We wanted to do one in middle school but we couldn’t find anyone and we didn’t have the idea yet. We decided to wait for high school.”

- Sharon Sanchez

## Let’s Make a Club

By Joanna Rosles  
Staff Writer

Magnet freshmen Sharon Sanchez and Danielle Rodriguez created the Be Active Club as a place for Parrots to be active in

multiple ways.

“I looked through my stuff and saw I had a club before at other schools,” said Sanchez. “And Danielle came up with the idea ‘oh, hey, let’s make a club at Poly.’”

Club members will be physically active, playing sports like soccer, basketball and volleyball, and active in the community, where they plan to do volunteer work.

“We are planning to rent the gym to do sports,” Sanchez said. “We are also doing arts and crafts for Christmas, making cards and ornaments.”

Club members also plan to volunteer in a shelter and at a hospital.

“We also want to learn how to knit and sew to make blankets for the pets at the shelters,” said Sanchez.

The club started Nov 14, and already has 24 members. The club meets Thursdays at lunch in room 57.

“Our sponsor is Math teacher Azucena Hernandez,” said Sanchez. “Magnet Coordinator Ms. Couchois recommended us to her. This is also her first year sponsoring a club.”

Sanchez met Rodriguez at Ranchito El-

ementary.

“She and I were in the same class in the second grade,” Sanchez said. “I was all by myself. I was crying because I was so alone and she helped me feel better and we became close. Then she introduced me to the other people that she knew.”

The two are like sisters. Both Parrots were born in Panorama City. Both want to study medicine in college.

“We hang out all the time,” Sanchez said.

“Sometimes I go with her family to places like Pyramid Lake and Universal Studios. Her family and I are so close that I consider them as family and I love them and feel grateful that I have them in my life. Because of them, I have learned some words and phrases in tagalong, like “Salamat Po,” which means “thank you.”

They did spend part of the summer apart.

“I went to CSI camp in CSUN,” said Sanchez. “We learned how crime scene investigators do their job and we talked to an FBI agent and a policeman about their work.”

“I also went to a residential program at UC Santa Barbara for three days and two nights where we did workshops on financial aid and more.”

Sanchez spent time with her family at theme parks like Universal Studios, but mostly she was at home or volunteering at the library.

“I traveled to Utah to sightsee and hike,”

said Rodriguez. “We hiked Eten Canyon and Runway Canyon.”

Sanchez is reading “Fahrenheit 451.”

It’s about firemen in this weird dystopian world who burn books since they are banned and people care more about television,” Sanchez said. “I think it’s a well-written book. In this era, some people don’t read anymore and mostly they are in the internet or TV.”

Rodriguez, who is half Chinese and half Filipino, likes Rick Riordan books.

(Riordan is the #1 New York Times best-selling author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series, the Kane Chronicles, and the Heroes of Olympus.)

“I read books that capture my attention,” Rodriguez said. “I’m thinking of joining the book club since I love to read.”

Sanchez is musical.

“I began taking piano lessons when I was young,” said Sanchez. “I enjoyed that feeling of playing an instrument and I felt I wanted to play and learn more instruments. My elementary school had orchestra and band, so I applied. I did clarinet for two years and switched to saxophone in middle school because I’ve always wanted to learn it.”

Sanchez played baritone and alto saxophone in eighth grade.

“One of my greatest achievements in band was when I went to perform at the LAUSD



Photo by Lirio Alberto

**ACTIVISTS:** Magnet freshman Danielle Rodriguez (left) and Sharon Sanchez

solo/ensemble festival at Hamilton High school in Los Angeles and scored an excellent rating as a baritone sax player,” Sanchez said.

## The Origin of the Christmas Tree

By Tanneshia Acosta  
Staff Writer

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition. In the 16th century, devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens,

or candles, if wood was scarce.

One widely held belief says 16th century Protestant Reformer Martin Luther first added lighted candles to the tree. The story goes that Luther was walking to his house one winter evening when he was awed by the stars twinkling amidst the evergreens. To recapture the scene, he brought a tree into the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

Through out most of the 19th century Americans found Christmas trees odd.

German settlers in Pennsylvania are believed to be the first to display a Christmas tree in America. Trees had been a tradition in many German homes years earlier. The Pennsylvania German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But in the late 1840s, Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans.

By the 1890s, Christmas ornaments from Germany began selling in America and the Christmas tree’s popularity was on the rise. Europeans used small trees, around four feet in height, while Americans preferred floor to ceiling trees.

Early 20th century Americans decorated their trees mainly with homemade ornaments, while



German Americans continued to use apples, nuts, and marzipan cookies. Popcorn dyed bright colors and interlaced with berries and nuts grew in popularity.

The advent of electricity brought Christmas lights that would glow for days on end. Christmas trees with lights soon began to appear in town squares across the country. And having a Christmas tree in the home became an American tradition.

Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska. And December 25 has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

**Christmas Ancient and Modern**

In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the winter solstice. Ancient people believed that the sun was a god. Winter came because the sun god was sick. They celebrated the solstice because it meant the sun god

would get well again.

The evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive.

## Christmas in the Sun

It’s different down under.

By Joanna Rosales  
Staff Writer

Australians spend Christmas in the pool. With temperatures over 100 degrees, it’s like having Christmas in July. People go camping, families have picnics in the park.

Instead of Christmas dinner, Australians hit the backyard barbecue or a picnic at the beach. Some 40,000 Aussies can be found at Bondi Beach on Christmas day. It’s a tradition.

In Sydney, the traditional Christmas dinner includes oysters, prawns, crayfish and Chardonnay, while in Queensland, folks have the normal traditional Christmas dinner with turkey, chicken, pork, ham, baked vegetables, plum pudding and ice cream.

Australians listen to the same Christmas carols as Americans do. They even do door-to-door caroling. Popular Christmas songs in Australia include Bing Crosby’s “White Christmas,”



“Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Once in Royal David’s City,” “Six White Boomers” and “The Carol of the Birds.”

Aussie Christmas cards have snowy scenes, even though the weather outside is hot and sunny. Families put up lights and decorations, just like Americans.

Kids wake up in the morning, run to the fake Christmas trees and bust open presents, just like Americans. After they finish, the young Aussies hit the waves.

Some Australians do celebrate Christmas in July, since July is winter in Australia.

But most skip all that snuggling by the fire roasting chestnuts and wearing cozy clothes to slip into shorts and tank tops and catch a wave.

## CAMPUS

## “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946)

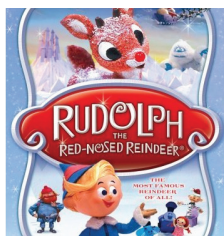
Even in black and white “It’s a Wonderful Life” remains a Christmas classic. The Frank Capra film centers on good-hearted George Bailey (James Stewart) who devoted his entire life to his father’s loan business in the town of Bedford Falls. Year after year, George sacrificed his personal desires for the better of other people. After a significant rough patch at work, George sees no other solution than to kill himself.

Several different people pray for George’s well-being and the angels in heaven pay attention. They send down Clarence, an angel who hasn’t earned his wings yet. George tells Clarence he wished he was never born and Clarence proceeds to show George what life would be like without him. Bedford Falls is bleak and scary without George and after a scary night in the alternate universe, George decides he still wants to live.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” is one of the most moving Christmas films of all time and will continue to be.



By Adrianna Garcia  
Staff Writer



# Classic Christmas Movies

## “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (1965)



Charlie Brown films always help to remember what time of the year it is. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” is no exception.

It’s Christmas and all the children are happy except for Charlie Brown. The commercialization of Christmas makes Charlie sick, and he’s determined to change that by putting on a wholesome Christmas play.

The children aren’t too helpful though and they get mad when Charlie buys a shabby real tree instead of a glamorous fake one. Charlie almost gives up until little Linus sings a song about the true meaning of Christmas and inspires Charlie to persist with his play.

Charlie Brown films bring back memories of school days and childhood, but they also offer valuable life lessons. Snoopy’s dancing and Lucy’s know-it-all remarks are always cute, but “A Charlie Brown Christmas” still makes its point: Christmas is more than gifts and glitz and glamour.



## “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” (1964)

When Sam the Snowman’s velvet voice begins Rudolph’s tale, you know Christmas is here again.

Rudolph is a young buck, one of Santa’s finest, born with a glowing red nose and deemed a misfit. Hermey is an elf who dreams of being a dentist and also feels out of place. Together Rudolph and Hermey search for a place where they belong.

Along the way, the two run into the Abominable Snowman and find shelter from the monster on an island inhabited by misfit toys. Rudolph vows to go back home and ask Santa to find a home for the unwanted toys.

Meanwhile, Santa’s sleigh is fogged in on Christmas Eve and all seems lost. Then Santa realizes he can use Rudolph’s nose to guide the sleigh. Christmas is saved and Santa stops by the island of misfit toys before leaving the North Pole.

Maybe it’s the classic songs or maybe it’s the stop-motion animation that makes “Rudolph” so wonderfully nostalgic and heart-warming for viewers of any age. Either way “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer” is a must-see Christmas classic.

Christmas time brings lots of holiday movies on TV. Whatever else you watch, be sure to catch these classics.

## “How the Grinch Stole Christmas!” (1966)

In a cave high above Whoville lives the Grinch. While the Whos celebrate Christmas, the Grinch hatches a plan. Dressed as Santa and riding a sleigh, the Grinch quietly steals all the Christmas decorations, gifts and food in Whoville.

When Christmas morning arrives, the Whos still gather in the middle of town to sing. The Grinch has a change of heart after a near-death experience with his little dog Max and returns the stolen goods. Everyone celebrates Christmas together and the Grinch’s smile turns from wretched to warm.

Dr. Seuss’ children’s classic, with its wealth of rhymes and misadventures, makes for great animation. Jim Carrey starred in a 2005 film, but the undeniable charm of the original should be your first choice.

## “Home Alone” (1990)

Nobody took the 80s by storm quite like John Hughes, and the Hughes-scripted “Home Alone” was no exception. Macaulay Culkin stars as Kevin, the youngest kid of a large family. Kevin, already feeling lonely and unappreciated, has to make the best of it when his family accidentally leaves him behind on a trip to Paris. Kevin indulges in cookies and ice cream for dinner and violent movies.

When not-so-smart burglars Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern decide to rob the house, Kevin engages the pair in a battle of wits. Pesci and Stern get much more than they bargained for as Kevin defends his castle with humorously violent tricks. Watching the burglars get hit in the face by swinging paint buckets is fun, but “Home Alone’s” bigger message is that nothing is more important during the holidays than family.

## Rush

[ From Ninth, front page ]

don’t know what clubs are out there,” said Chun.

The club rush gave freshmen the opportunity to find extracurricular activities that match their interests and hobbies.

And if they don’t, they can make their own club.

A “Start Your Own Club” table was set up that filled in students on how to create a new club.

The Ninth Grade Center currently offers freshman council and a junior chapter of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF).

“Students can demonstrate leadership and stick with it and really show these colleges that they have leadership capabilities,” Chun said. “It’s really important for kids to practice leadership even in the 9th grade so they can keep a consistency of responsibility.”

Participation in clubs and organization as early as freshman year can make a great impact on how colleges look at a student.

A student who has been a club member for four years and holds an officer position shows leadership skills and responsibility. That commitment looks better than just joining four clubs during senior year.

“I want our freshmen to have a regular high school experience, like any Poly kid,” said Chun.

Assistant Principal Lourdes De Santiago, counselor Michelle Carbone and dean Juan Campos also helped Chun coordinate Club Rush.

KYDS provided background music for the event.

## Board Certified

[ From Certification, front page ]

Carstens, “and you get a higher pay.”

LAUSD gives certified teachers an automatic 7.5% pay increase. A teacher can earn an additional 7.5% by taking on leadership roles.

The application process costs \$2,500.

“I was fortunate that our district covered half of the expense,” said Casillas. “Once you apply and pay an initial \$500, you receive your materials to proceed.”

“It’s a lot like going to college,” Carstens said, “you have to pay some fees and you have to do a lot of work and not everybody who pays fees passes the classes. So it’s a bit of a risk.”

“You have to document what you’re doing and include examples of student work,” Carstens said. “In some ways it’s like working on a master’s degree.”

The certification process includes submitting four portfolio entries. Each portfolio entry addresses a different component of what an accomplished teacher can do.

“One portfolio entry that is common to all the subject areas is the teacher as a learner, as a collaborator and as a leader,” said Casillas. “We had to collect evidence that showed that we sought to continually learn about our subject and practice.”

“We also had to provide evidence that we collaborated with our colleagues in an effort to improve our practice and in turn student learning.”

“Finally, we needed to show evidence that we were taking leadership roles within our school.”

Additional portfolio entries include lessons and videos.

“One video had to show us leading a whole class discussion,” said Casillas, “and the second involved showing students working in small groups.”

The deadline for the portfolio entries was May 31, 2013 and the three-hour test was in June.

“The test covered algebra, discrete math, geometry, calculus, technology and manipulatives, statistics and data analysis,” Casillas said.

The entries and exam are scored out of four points, but three entries are worth 16% each and a fourth is worth 12%. Each of the six parts of the exam was worth 6.67%.

Poly graduate and Sun Valley native Casillas has been teaching for 15 years, most of that time at Poly. She teaches Algebra 2 and AP Statistics.

Carstens, who came to Poly in fall of 1996, teaches sophomore and senior English.

“I started as a substitute in the summer of 1990,” Carstens said, “but I got my first full contract teaching in the fall of 1995. It was a private school. I also taught English in Spain for a couple of years.”

Carstens attended a community college in Torrance for two years, then studied for a semester in Cambridge, England and attended Loyola Marymount for two years.

“I did a teachers credential in Cal State Dominguez Hills, and then I did a masters degree at Cal State Northridge,” Carstens said. “I majored in English.”

Carstens was born in Hebron, Nebraska, home of the World’s Largest Porch Swing.

Casillas also attended CSUN.

## For-Profit Scams

[ From Money, front page ]

criminal justice there. Why not go to a community college? I just couldn’t get it through his head that he should go to a community college.”

Proprietary schools employ very good sales people.

“They make it sound completely wonderful,” Warman said. “They usually use skilled actors on their TV ads and it sounds great and so students want to go there but in the long run it’s at least five to ten times more expensive than going to a community college. So I don’t understand why anyone would want to go there.”

The companies’ marketing tactics are very aggressive, not unlike car salespeople.

“They lie,” Warman said. “They guarantee that your credits are transferable. But ninety percent of the classes at these colleges are not transferable to a university.”

The for-profit schools are not accredited by the Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC).

“Even high schools need to be accredited,” Warman said. “WASC is doing an accreditation visit to Poly in 2014. We need to get accredited or else your high school diploma is worthless.”

“They exaggerate the prospects of getting the job and they lie about the salary you’re going to earn. Many students that go there fall into debt, so they default. There is financial aid called a Cal Grant. The state of California no longer gives these students Cal Grants because so many of them default. They don’t pay back their debt.”

“What the for-profit schools are

doing to students and their families across America is shameful,” Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) said recently. “These are not the good guys.”

Students attending the following local colleges will not be eligible for Cal Grants.

Academy of Art University / American Career College / Bryan College / Colombia College - Hollywood / Community Christian College / Concorde Career Institute / Devry University - Pomona / Everest College / Fremont College / Glendale Career College / ITT Technical Institute / Kaplan College / Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Art / Musician’s Institute / Platt College / South Coast College / The Art Institute of California / The Los Angeles Recording School / United Education Institute / University of Phoenix / West Coast University / Westwood College of Technology / Wyotech

Affordable options for students looking for technical or trade certifications. LAUSD Adult School alone offers the following programs:

Emergency Medical Technician / Nurse Assistant / X-Ray Technician / Legal Secretary / Air Conditioning Mechanic / Mechanic / Auto Body Repair / Carpenter / Electrician

Valley College and other Community Colleges have a multitude of AA or certificate programs that provide the same skill development courses at a fraction of the cost. Examples below:

Website Software Specialist  
Certified Nursing Assistant  
Media Arts  
Music Technology  
Electronics Technician  
Microcomputer Systems

## MEDIA

# The Man in Black was one of a kind

## Country music never saw anyone like Johnny Cash and probably never will.

By Lisa Guardado  
Staff Writer

Country singer Johnny Cash, "the man in black," became one of the most influential artists in post-World War II country music.

Inspired by his mother, and the country music he heard on the radio, Cash began writing his own songs at age twelve.

In high school, Cash sang for Arkansas radio station KLCN. After graduating in 1950, Cash joined the Air Force, where he bought a guitar and taught himself to play. He wrote "Folsom Prison Blues."

In 1954, Cash left the Air Force, moved to Memphis and married Texas girl Vivian Leberto.

He took a radio announcing course on the GI Bill and played country music at night with what became known as the "Tennessee Two," guitarist Luther Perkins and bassist Marshall Grant. The trio occasionally played for local radio station KWEN.

Cash, Perkins and Grant auditioned for Sun Records owner and producer Sam Phillips in 1955. The band played gospel tunes, but Phillips wanted originals. After hearing Cash's material, Phillips immediately signed the band.

Cash created his own distinct sound, "halfway between the blunt emotional honesty of folk, the rebelliousness of rock and roll, and the world-weariness of country."

Cash's first single, "Cry Cry Cry," reached number 14 on "The Louisiana Hayride" in 1955. "Folsom Prison Blues," released in 1956, reached the country Top Five. That same year, "I Walk the Line" stayed at number one for six weeks.

In '57 Cash recorded "Home of the Blues" and Sun Records released Cash's debut album "Johnny Cash with his hot and blue guitar." The album was Sun's first long player.



The same year Cash successfully released "Give My Love to Rose" and made his first appearance as "the man in black."

Unhappy with Phillips' opposition to gospel tunes and contractual restrictions, Cash left Sun for Columbia Records in 1959.

The first year with Columbia, Cash released one of his biggest hits, "Don't Take Your Guns to Town."

"Ring of Fire" became Cash's most famous hit. The mariachi-influenced song has even been included in video games like Tony Hawk's Underground 2.

"Ring of Fire," co-written by future wife June Carter and originally performed by June's sister Anita, charted at number one for seven weeks in 1963. The mariachi-style horns and guitar were added in Cash's version of the song.

Cash was born in Kingsland, Arkansas in 1932. His father Ray, a poor Southern Baptist sharecropper, moved his wife and seven children to Dyess, Arkansas when Cash was three.

The family lived in a five-room home on 20 acres where his father farmed seasonal crops, including cotton. Cash recalled "hauling water for a road gang" at ten, and "moving large sacks of cotton" at twelve.

As a distraction from the hard labor, the Cash family played music. Cash recalled surrounding himself with his mother's folk and hymn ballads.

Cash's mother Carrie raised money to have him take singing lessons. But his teacher was impressed with Cash's unique singing style and suggested he stick to his natural voice.

It turned out she was right.

Cash died of diabetes in 2003.

# A Sober Stroke Hits All the Right Notes

## New EP and strong live show suggest rehab was good to Albert Hammond Jr.

By Emily Pintor  
Staff Writer

Strokes guitarist Albert Hammond Jr. clearly shows he is one of the most "Strokiest" Strokes in his new EP,

"AHJ". The EP sounds more like The Stroke's records than any of the other members' solo works.

The Strokes are no strangers to change. Their last two records, "Comedown Machine" and "Angles," took the band in new directions. So does "AHJ," sounding more heavy and punk-influenced than his other work.

The new EP, released last month on band mate Julian Casablancas's Cult Records label, follows two earlier solo efforts, "Como Te Llama?" and "Yours To Keep."

This is Hammond's first solo work after his rehab in 2009. A new, clean lifestyle has clearly improved and influenced his music. His five songs tell of the demons he struggled with during his addiction.

Hammond kicked off an American tour

November 3rd, making two stops in California. His performance at The El Rey Theater in Los Angeles proved he is back at the top of his game.

Wearing his signature tight black jeans, black shirt, red suspenders and red boots, Hammond and his highly energized band opened and ended their set with familiar songs from the past two albums. But Hammond also wove his five new songs into the show.

"St. Justice" drew the most applause, probably thanks in part to the official music video featuring Hammond and slender but striking Dutch model Nina de Raadt. The song, a beat-heavy, mid-tempo electronica piece with a strong melody, is accessible and commercial.

"Cooker Ship" and "Rude Customer" kicked up the energy level with cracking drums and riffy guitars that provide the appropriate backing for Hammond's crisp tenor. On stage, Hammond put his heart in the song, pushing for the high notes on "Cooker Ship."

Hammond had great energy, jumping and



Google Image

**MUSIC VIDEO:** A newly sober Albert Hammond Jr. gets close to Dutch model Nina de Raadt.

dancing around the stage, at times banging out power chords, at times stopping to focus on his vocals. Favorites like "Everyone Gets A Star" and "In Transit" from older albums kept the crowd involved.

"Carnal Cruise" made the crowd jump with its upbeat rhythm guitar progression and groovy guitar solo. "Strange Tidings," from the new EP, reminded listeners of The Strokes debut and most acclaimed album, "Is This It."

The last songs, featuring only Hammond and his guitar, drew in the audience and created an intimate atmosphere. The crowd sang

along to "Blue Skies" as Hammond strummed his electric guitar.

Rehab has clearly done Hammond a world of good. Water bottles and orange juice have replaced the beer bottles usually scattered across the stage when Hammond performed. His sobriety has cleared his mind and made him a new musician.

"AHJ" is Hammond's fresh start and a much-anticipated jump back into his solo career. The EP serves Hammond's voice and new energy well.

# New Direction With "Memories"

## Boy band One Direction sounds grown up.

By Christine Maralit  
Staff Writer

English-Irish pop boy band One Direction released "Midnight Memories," their third album, shortly after returning home from an eight-month world tour. The new album showcases an edgier,

heavier and rockier sound.

The whole album was "accidentally" leaked online one week before the official November 25 release. Despite the freebie, the album charted #1 on iTunes in America and Europe.

A deluxe edition of the 15-track CD has four bonus songs - "Why Don't We Go There," "Does He Know?," "Alive" and

"Half A Heart" - and a small photo book of the 1D boys walking aimlessly through the streets.

One Direction produced and wrote their own lyrics for "Memories," unlike their two previous efforts.

Singers Liam Payne and Louis Tomlinson co-wrote half of the songs.

"As we're growing up, our music is growing up with us," Tomlinson said.

"Little Black Dress," co-written by Payne, Tomlinson and Teddy Geiger has an '80s rock vibe similar to Def Leppard and Rick Springfield, heavy with electric guitar riffs and a catchy chorus chant.

"Don't Forget Where You Belong," a collaboration between McFly and 1D member Niall Horan, touches on a sentimental message about staying close to one's roots no matter how far one has gone.

"Happily," co-written by Harry Styles, borrows from current indie artists like Bastille and Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros' "Home."

The songs cover a vast range of moods, from upbeat dance tracks like "Midnight Memories" and "Better Than Words" to slow gentle ballads like "Strong" and "You & I."



Google Image

**1D:** (from left) Louis Tomlinson, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Zayn Malik and Harry Styles released "Midnight Memories."

The new album's indie and rock influences are a change from the pop rock and acoustic "Up All Night" and "Take Me Home."

"Memories" should give One Direction a wider audience beyond the female pre-teens and young adults who were there from the start.

## SPORTS

## CIF LA CITY SECTION DIV. III FINAL 2013

Qtr	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Poly	0	6	0	7	13
View Park	8	8	22	8	46



Photo Courtesy of Yearbook

CITY FINAL: Parrot senior Isaiah Solorzano runs swing pass in Parrots' 46-13 championship loss to View Park.

## Parrots Fall Short in Final

Poly's first playoff championship since 1990 ends in 46-13 loss to View Park.

By Daniel Lopez  
Staff Writer

View Park ran off 38 unanswered points, including a 22-point third quarter offensive blitz, in a convincing win over Poly, who last appeared in a final in 1990.

Poly took over at the 15 yard line after View Park went three and out. Senior running back DJ Jones exploded with a big run that got Poly inside the 25 yard line. But the Parrots failed to convert on fourth down and turned the ball over.

View Park then put together a 75-yard drive and capped it off with a 15-yard TD from UCLA-bound senior running back Cameron Griffin. The two-point conversion was good and the Knights drew first blood at 8-0 with 3:10 left in the first.

Poly started their scoring drive on the 26 yard line. Jones exploded for another big run just before the quarter ended.

Jones then ran the ball in from the 10 to start the second. Poly's two-point conversion failed, but the Parrots were back in the hunt at 8-6 with only five seconds gone in the quarter.

Poly forced View Park to punt and then the Knights did the same.

This time View Park took over at the 24-yard line. On the first play of the drive, Griffin took it all the way for a TD. The Knights' two-point conversion was good, putting View Park up 16-6 with 7:08 left in the second.

Poly turned over the ball on downs and View Park did too before the Parrots made their final push of the half.

Poly senior running back Isaiah Solorzano caught a swing pass for a big yardage to put the Parrots inside the twenty. But Poly could manage no better than a field goal attempt that failed.

The score favored View Park 16-6 at the break.

Poly received to start the second but got nowhere and was forced to punt.

View Park took the punt all the way to their own 19. The Knights drove for another first down and then Griffin rushed for the three-yard TD. The two-point conversion attempt failed. The Knights were up 22-6 with 7:34 left in the third.

View Park picked up their second score of the quarter when Poly QB Eric Manriquez was stripped and the Knights recovered at the 1-yard line. Senior running back Julian Smith got the TD. Score 30-6 with 4:32 left in the third.

Poly offense sputtered and the Parrots were again forced to punt.

View Park took over at the 44 and senior quarterback Luis Medearis threw a TD pass to junior wide receiver Daniel Bell. With the score 38-6 and less than a minute

left in the quarter, Poly was done.

Poly turned the ball over on downs at the 49 but got it back when View Park's Medearis fumbled.

Poly drove from the 37 to their own 15, but Parrot junior QB Scottie Diaz got picked off and View Park junior wide receiver Keenan Jones ran 103 yards for the TD. The officials went to a running clock with View Park up 46-6 and 7:26 left in the game.

Poly started their last drive at the 30-yard line and scored on a 20-yard TD pass from Diaz to senior Eric Manriquez with 1:16 left in the fourth.

View Park recovered the onside kick and took a knee as time ran out.

Poly's D.J. Jones had a big ground game, rushing for 187 yards in 24 carries, including a 9-yard touchdown. Jones had runs of 56, 56 and 47 yards in the first half.

Diaz completed 10 of 28 passes for 130 yards and one TD along with two interceptions.

View Park's Griffin had touchdown runs of 24, 9 and 77 yards, accounting for most of his 136 yards. Quarterback Medearis was 5 for 8 and 95 yards.

The Knights, with one-tenth of Poly's enrollment, brought only 23 players.

View Park ended its season undefeated at 13-0. Poly finished 9-5, 4-2 and tied for second in the East Valley League with Grant and Verdugo Hills behind Arleta's perfect 6-0 mark.

## XC Finish Not Up to Rivera Standards

By Laura Martinez  
Staff Writer

Pierce College.

Both Parrots varsity teams came in 11th place.

"I expected more from my varsity boys," said veteran Parrot head coach Mario Rivera. "They started off good but as the race progressed they lost their form and focus."

Rivera cited junior Edwin Rocha and sophomore Harrison Ochoa as turning in strong performances. And he said he was relieved to see varsity athlete senior Daniela Sylva running her best after her fainting spell at the city semis.

But junior Raul Lopez did not reach the same level of performance as he did at city semi, Rivera said.

Granada Hills' varsity girls and San Pedro's varsity boy won the XC City Finals held Saturday at

"The varsity girls had a good race," Rivera said. "They pushed through the three mile course, all stayed less than 300 meters from each other and the finished only seconds apart."

Rivera said he tried some different things this year but got the same results as every other year.

"I paid for invitationals so varsity could have more experience and know who and what they were up against, I bought new uniforms, I bought Gatorade and recovery shakes," Rivera said. "I've never done that in all my years of coaching. I did all this expecting better results than in the past but I saw the same results."

"We've made it to city finals every year," Rivera said, "so I expected this year to have better results."

"I wasn't satisfied with this race," Rivera said. "I expected my athletes to make

## Granada Closes Out Poly 3-0

Highlanders scored in bunches in semi-final playoff win.

By Tanneshia Acosta  
Staff Writer

Granada Hills defeated Poly 3-0 in a 2013 CIF LA City semi-final girls volleyball match at Granada Hills Tuesday 27-25, 25-20, 25-13.

"We executed our game plan of what we were trying to limit on their side of the net pretty well," said Parrot head coach Sina Aghassy. "But we let our mistakes dictate the momentum of the match."

The Highlanders went on to capture the championship trophy, defeating Palisades 25-22, 26-24, 25-13 in the final round of the playoffs. Palisades defeated Carson 3-2 in the other semi-final match.

"I think we could have made it to the finals this year," Aghassy said. "When your team makes it as far as we did and falls to the eventual champions, it is definitely a bittersweet feeling."

Granada Hills (22-8, 10-0) scored the first four points of the match before Poly (24-9-1, 10-2) started catching up. Scoring was back and forth until a tie at 24.

The first team to go up by two points would win the game. The opponents tied again at 25, but the Highlanders then put away the game.

"When you are playing a team who has reached the finals almost every year," Aghassy said, "you have to limit the errors on your side of the net."

Poly took an early 3-2 lead in the second game, but runs of five points and then seven points by Granada had Poly behind 18-24.

The Lady Parrots got two but couldn't hold off the Highlanders, losing the second game 20-25.

"The costly mistakes definitely added up," Aghassy said, "such as five consecutively missed serves in game one and not being able to pass or side out in game two after taking a lead."

Another seven-point Granada Hills run in the third game found Poly down 5-13. Poly couldn't match the Highlanders' intensity and a second streak of seven points gave Granada the win at 25-13.

"We were not being aggressive enough in late in the game," Aghassy said, "and when you don't take those high-risk chances, usually things don't fall your way."

Aghassy felt the team played great volleyball all year and was coming together into their last game.

"My feelings now that the season is over are definitely bittersweet," Aghassy said, "but there was so much we accomplished this year as a team and a family."

The Lady Parrots defeated San Pedro 25-7, 25-16, 25-20 and Narbonne 12-25, 22-25, 25-22, 25, 20, 15-10 earlier in the playoffs.

## Tennis Doubles Out

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor In Chief

Lady Parrot #1 doubles junior Karen Castillo and senior Adriana de la Cruz lost 1-2 to Sylmar in the first round of the City playoffs.

"Our girls acquitted themselves well," said veteran Poly head coach Evan Rabins.

Poly went up 3-0 in the first set before dropping three games, mostly with unforced errors.

The seventh game went to deuce and took 25 minutes. Both sides had multiple chances to win, both teams

played tenaciously, but Sylmar won the game and the set 6-3.

Sylmar was up 4-2 in the second set before Poly caught fire.

"We won four games in a row and took the set 6-4," Rabins said.

Sylmar was up 4-2 when a Poly second serve at Ad Out was called out. Rabins thought the ball hit the line.

"There was a bit of a rhubarb," Rabins said, "and I was castigated for going on the courts."

The call stood and the Lady Parrots lost the set 6-2 and the match.

Below are the times for all Parrots in the City Finals:

Varsity girls  
Junior Alexis Contreras-21:05  
Senior Isabel Ochoa-21:34  
Senior Daniela Silva-22:01  
Junior Jessica Capulin-21:56  
Junior Yehini Bautista-22:10

Varsity Boys  
Senior Jorge Palacios -16:58  
Junior Edwin Rocha -17:00  
Sophomore Luis Jimenez -17:30  
Sophomore Harrison Ochoa -17:55