

A Letter from Megia Chou, Class of 2004

To all my dear friends, teachers, and fellow readers,



How goes your summer? My, it's getting hotter and hotter like no other! I'm so glad to be home. College is exciting, and the workload is demanding, but nothing beats home! I truly understood the meaning of "home, sweet home" when I came home for a visit a few months back. No matter how excessively your college apartment is decorated, the seven photo albums and cute picture frames and fifteen teddy bears just didn't cut it. It lacked the scent of mama's cooking, warmth and laughter of family. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to say college life is humdrum or depressing, nor am I extremely nostalgic!

College... just takes some getting used to. But it's an awesome adventure! I've met so many wonderful people down in UC San Diego. The weather is absolutely wonderful, scenery breathtaking, and though schoolwork is a tad bit hectic and chaotic, I find absolute tranquility and peace in my environment.

In the beginning, it took some getting used to. No doubt! Coming from a classroom with as little as three students to an enormous, 400-seat lecture hall—you can only imagine. But hey, now I have experience from both extremes! Not many people can say they've experienced both. Nor can most people say they cannot only remember the names of every student and faculty in their school, but also, have had the honor of spending quality time with EACH one of them, now can they? Nope, didn't think so! PLBS is such a wonderful, unique one-of-a-kind school. It really is one-of-a-kind. The faculty members really care and look out for each student's needs. It's like living on Sesame Street, where the old, the young, and the friendly mesh well together—like a big family.

I miss the times when we'd wake up early in the morning, get dressed in our super posh uniforms, and start the day with a relaxed, yet revitalizing group meditation. I miss the days when we'd have stimulating debates in Dr. Austin's History class or constructing "top-of-the-line" gadgets in Dr. K.C. Ng's Physics class. And how can we forget, our super distinguished Swank MESSYJJ newsletter (acronym for Megia, Engih, Sharon, Stephanie, Yeeshen, Junia, Jenny—student council members of '04—and as MESSYJJ is denoting 'message'). But best of all, we were given opportunities to shine in the public eye. We've had the honor of performing and reaching out to the public frequently. Bringing smiles to their faces and brightening their lives (even if it's just for the moment) is the greatest self-satisfaction and feeling of accomplishment on-stage. From learning various cultural dances, to harmonizing enchanting musical pieces, to acting in plays—whether it be drama, comedy, or suspense (gasps!)—It is just a PLBS classic.

And that's what PLBS is — a classic. It's a Classic because the memories shared are timeless and unforgettable – the school, the teachers and staff, the volunteers, and most importantly - the students. History is all we've got.

To my class of 2004: May your college days be exciting and ever-lasting! Haha. This is one ride I'd like to grab on tight for a long time. After all, we must experience and live through our "golden age" to the fullest! Thanks for all the special memories. Let's have another grand reunion in Hawaii in 10 years! No, how about 5? (smiles)

To students in PLBS: I envy you guys sometimes. Cherish all the moments you spend there. I promise you – these are memories you'll refer back to when you're 20, 50, and even 80 years old. You are all extraordinary and special.

Until next time, take care!

Megia Chou
06-30-2005