

# The Purple Lotus Bulletin

January/February 2008

## Message from the Principal:

Happy 2008 from all of us here at Purple Lotus. 2007-2008 is a banner year for the school with many activities and accomplishments. This parent newsletter will outline everything for you. When the school website is completed, the quarterly parent newsletters will be available to you online as well. Many thanks to Mr. Dale DeBakcsy for doing a splendid job editing this newsletter. We look forward to this newsletter keeping you informed of the school's progress.

## News In Brief:

### WASC Accreditation

As previously announced, in July, 2007, PLBS was granted accreditation status by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. That is a significant distinction for the school. Part of this process is the formulation of recommendations for the school. At the present, the school faculty is working hard on the implementation of those recommendations.

### Employee and Parent Handbooks

The Employee Handbook was developed and distributed to the faculty and staff at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. The Parent Handbook is now completed and will be sent to you within the next month. It contains very

important information for you and your student. If you have any questions about the information in the Parent Handbook, please contact the school.

### Code of Student Conduct

Recently, the school developed a Code of Student Conduct. This information was distributed to all students, Grades 2-12 in recent assemblies. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions, ask for clarifications, etc. The Code of Student Conduct has also been posted on the school campus. A copy of that code is included in your Parent Handbook.

### Use of the Internet

In order to complete their work, students need access to the Internet, and at PLBS, every effort is being made to make sure that opportunity is given to students. However, that opportunity comes with great responsibility on the part of the students. To assure that all students understand their responsibilities, guidelines and agreements have been developed and distributed to the students. Those agreements will require your signature. Also, the decision has been made that only high school students in Grades 11-12 will be allowed to have laptops at school. If students below Grade 11 feel an extraordinary need for the use of a laptop, that request will be made to the principal for approval.

### **Table of Contents:**

Message from the Principal	..... 1
PLBS News	..... 1-2
Events and Outings	..... 2-3
Upcoming Exams	..... 3
Inside The Classroom	..... 4
Contact Information	.....5

### Opportunities at the Local College and ROP School

Several of the PLBS students (seniors) are being given the opportunity to take classes at the local college and the Regional Opportunity Program School. College classes are offered that give students college credit, if they have met the graduation requirements at PLBS. The Regional Opportunity Program provides students with vocational education classes that meet their needs and interests.

### Staff Development for Teachers

During the 2007-2008, six staff development days have been scheduled for the teachers at PLBS. These inservice workshops are being offered by an experienced teacher in the New Haven Unified School District. Thus far, the workshops have focused on planning for instruction and teaching critical thinking to students. The PLBS teachers are finding these workshops very interesting and helpful.

### New Class for Primary Students

For the first time, in 2007-2008, PLBS has primary students (Grades 1, 2 and 3). There are currently seven students in that class. The instructional program for these students has been set up with appropriate schedules and materials. A teacher was hired for these students and she is doing an excellent job in meeting their academic and English acquisition needs.

### ESL Program

Students new to PLBS many times need concentrated English as a Second

Language instruction. All new students as well as others observed by the faculty as needing this instruction, have been tested to determine their levels of English proficiency. Intense instruction is currently being provided to these students with carefully selected materials. Already, these students are making great progress.

### **JANUARY - FEBRUARY EVENTS AND OUTINGS:**

#### **Teacher-Student Football Exhibition:**

When : January 2, 2008

What: At the end of the year, the teachers and alumni challenge the current students of Purple Lotus to a game of football. This year, not able to wait until June, we are having an exhibition game in January for all interested in watching a spirited match.

#### **Chabot Space and Science Center:**

When: January 11, 2008. 7:00 pm

What: "Black Holes" A short film narrated by Liam Neeson that uses the most recent NASA data on black holes and the movement of galaxies to bring Einstein's theories of space-time to life. The Center itself currently is hosting a fantastic display of spacesuits and other equipment from the International Space Station.

Who: Members of the Physics and Biology classes.

**The Tech Museum of San Jose:**

When: January 19, 2008

What: The Body Revealed Exhibition in Sacramento. A collection of immaculately preserved internal organs and entire anatomical systems on display in our state's capitol. We'll go see cross-sections of the human body and gain a new insight into the complicated universe operating under our skin,

keeping us going without us doing anything more than eating and breathing.

**The Giver:**

When: February 8, 2008

What: The Book Club will be heading to Palo Alto to see a theater production of their January book, The Giver, by Lois Lowry.

**THREE PLBS STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECOGNITION**

Recently, high school students took the PSAT, which is a test students take in preparation for the SAT, which is required for students entering college. Anna Chung, Jocelyn Lai and Ray Kao have qualified for National Merit Scholarship Program recognition as a result of their outstanding performance on the PSAT. This is an honor for our students and will be a significant asset as they prepare to apply for college admission. These students will be formally notified in September, 2008 of their qualification. Congratulations Anna, Jocelyn and Ray!!

**Upcoming Exams and Projects:**

\* January 31 through February 15: CAHSEE and CST testing:

In line with the recommendations of WASC, we are introducing these tests to give us more reliable information on where our students stand in regard to the California State Standards.

A Note from the Vice Principal on the CAHSEE AND CST:

In order for students to graduate from high school in the state of California, they must pass the CAHSEE (the California High School Exit Exam). To compare the achievement of PLBS students to those students statewide, PLBS administered this test for the first time to students in Grades 10-12 during the first two weeks of February.

PLBS students in Grades 5-8 took the CST (California Standards Test) during the first two weeks of February also.

The results of these tests will be reviewed by the faculty and students to determine successes and areas for improvement.

### *Inside the Classroom with: Mr. Brent!*

Salutations Parents! I am very pleased to meet you. My name is Brent Schaeffer and I have been privileged to teach at PLBS for the past two years. I teach the high school English and Social Studies classes and am greatly appreciative of having dedicated and delightful students.

The first semester was a grand semester. I would like to take the opportunity to name some very exceptional students who contributed to the grandiosity.

#### English 9/10

Amber Everett and Derrick Liang – Both were champions of Grammar Boot Camp

Sophia Zhu – She wrote a charming fable titled “Chicken Afraid”.

Leonard Chan – He writes outstanding poetry, especially “Journey on Another Neptune”.

Tracy Cao – An excellent portrayal of Oedipus in our class reading of “Oedipus Rex”.

#### English 11/12

Shirley Lim and Bryman Wang – Both were champions of Grammar Boot Camp

Anna Chung – She wrote a brilliant essay response to Daughter of Fortune.

Nicholas Lwi – He has begun an excellent essay response to Of Mice and Men.

#### US History

Jocelyn Lai – She aces almost every single test

Kent Lim and Sheng Lin – Both offer exceptional insight to class discussions.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach such wonderful young adults!

Sincerely,

Mr. Brent Schaeffer

## Contact Information:

Mailing Address:

**Purple Lotus Buddhist School**  
33615 9th Street  
Union City , CA 94587

Phone Number: (510) 429-8808

Fax Number: (510) 429-7150

Important E-Mails:

General School Questions and Concerns: [office@plbs.org](mailto:office@plbs.org)  
Dr. K.C. Ng (Principal) :  
Dr. Carol Dee (Vice-Principal) :  
Mr. Dale DeBakcsy (Editor) : [vonbraun@juno.com](mailto:vonbraun@juno.com)