



PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

PALISADES CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL REPORT OCTOBER 16, 2018

PCHS will empower our diverse student population to make positive contributions to the global community by dedicating our resources to ensure educational excellence, civic responsibility, and personal growth.

Pali Student Activism during October

*Pali students have stepped up to demonstrate the core values described in the **PCHS mission statement**. In addition to Student Senate meetings, students and teachers have coordinated a variety of events designed to raise awareness and engagement.*

Human Rights Watch Student Task Force - Mock election

October 9, 2018: Starting bright and early at 8am, **Student Task Force (STF)** organizers welcomed the first classrooms to Mercer Auditorium to participate in voter registration and Palisades Charter HS's first mock election for the crucial November 6 Midterms. The Palisades STF chapter joined with the school's Leadership Class and the Los Angeles City Clerk's office to present 40-minute sessions throughout the school day to over 700 students and teachers. (Teachers signed up their classrooms to fill the available sessions throughout the school day.)

The **City Clerk's office** illustrated the impact on our lives from local elections, but lamented the ominously low voting rates of eligible voters in local elections. Only 10% of registered voters actually voted in last June's local elections in the City of Los Angeles. Determined to dramatically raise voter participation, a major part of the day's presentations was an opportunity to pre-register (16 and 17 year-olds) and register to vote, followed by the popular mock election which gave participants an experience in every step of voting on election day: signing in, receiving a ballot, going into actual voting booths to vote, depositing the ballot in the official ballot box and receiving the "I voted" sticker. Pali was able to proclaim, 100% participation by the 700!

Not all Pali students were able to attend the Mock Election Day, so Pali STF will continue to register voters before the October 22 voter registration deadline. **Angelica Pereya** and **Myrna Cervantes** are the **faculty advisors** for this STF (*from the Human Rights Watch Student Task Force website*).

CASC Conference - Leadership Training

ASBs from all over Los Angeles county attended a leadership conference on October 10th from 9am-1:45pm. This conference at Palisades Charter High School included a Chipotle lunch, leadership activities, learning **California Association of Student Councils** curriculum and a guest speaker. CASC conducts over 60 programs annually for elementary, middle and high school students. For more information, visit www.casc.net

Region 9 President Serena Perl and **Vice President Eli Kai**, both PCHS students and Ambassadors, coordinated the event.

Established in 1947, the **California Association of Student Councils (CASC)** is a student-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose purpose is to improve the quality of life in the world by developing skilled, ethical, and sensitive leaders of diverse backgrounds and cultures.



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The mission of CASC is to provide leadership development for elementary, middle, and high school students and their advisors in California and across the world through peer training. Our programs emphasize authenticity, ethics, and collaborative decision-making which enhance learning outside of the classroom by fostering self-esteem and civic engagement. CASC advocates for the youth, provides an avenue for the expression on student views and empowers young people.

National Coming Out Day. In honor of this, the **PCHS Gender-Sexualities Alliance** set up a timeline of LGBT+ history in Gilbert Hall inviting all teachers to bring their classes by for 15-20 minutes to check out the presentation. This was a great opportunity for students to get a look into an aspect of the civil rights movement that is often overlooked while also showcasing how protests, riots and civil disobedience were used to advance minority rights. **The event was coordinated by Sophia Green, GSA Co-President, Oona McDermott, GSA Co-President and Ms. Jill Barker, GSA Advisor.**

#YouthinTheBooth2018.com

LAUSD Board Vice President Nick Melvoin, Pali alum Richard Greene and a team at PCHS have created a very fun, educational and meaningful way for students, aged 13 and over, to participate in The 2018 Midterm Elections **and have an impact on the direction of our country.** It's called "**Youth In The Booth 2018**" and is a Civic Engagement and Public Speaking and Video Competition on the issues that face the nation at this important time. Go to www.#YouthinTheBooth2018.com to learn more about the competition. Multiple \$1000 cash prizes will be awarded with a grand prize of \$2,500.

The competition launched October 9th, exactly 4 weeks before the November 6 election, and ends with a live FINALS on Friday, November 2 at Pali High with a number of Hollywood celebrities and students as judges and lots of prizes. **All students in District 4 are invited and welcome.** The project is possible due to exceptional teachers **John Vieira** and **Nancy Fracchiolla** and the **Pali Production students**, particularly **Kian Mirshokri**, for assisting with the website and demonstration videos, and student leaders **Sophie Green** and **Hallie Mcrae**.

Justice League Symposium - Students will participate in a forum designed to identify and find solutions for student concerns. This meeting will take place Monday, October 15 during lunch.

Student Support Programs

Roads to Respect - 9th graders participated in the Roads to Respect program provided by Santa Monica - UCLA Rape Treatment Center and coordinated by academic counselor **Jennifer Peeks**. The Roads to Respect - Sexual Assault program to Pali. 692 Freshmen participated this year compared to 161 last year. The program covered topics including

- Understanding the dangers and dynamics of silence and inaction in the face of injustice and mistreatment of others, and the remedies.
- Empathy - the foundation for moral character, moral courage, healthy relationships, and resilience.
- Confronting the rise in rates of depression, loneliness, and suicide among youth.

Restorative Justice Peer Mediation Class



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This course is an A-G approved UCCI (University of California Curriculum Integration) course offered for the first time at PCHS this year. The course description specifies:

"In this course, students will examine the roles of social workers, mediators, advocates, and law enforcement officers as peacekeepers and problem solvers in society. Students will begin with an introspective look at themselves and inner workings of the human brain as it pertains to conflict and conflict resolution and then utilize this knowledge as they explore the ideology that drives careers in various fields of public service. Throughout the course, students will develop a deeper understanding of the specific requirements and physical and emotional demands that are unique to these career fields. Students ultimately apply the knowledge they gain throughout the course by participating in service learning projects that require them to move beyond the classroom in their outreach efforts."

What this means for Pali during our pilot year is that we are training another group of mediators on a deep and multi-faceted level to not only be effective on-campus Peer Mediators but also consider the various paths they may ultimately take, both in college and in their professional lives. Professional mediation is a rapidly growing field and many universities now have Mediation and Conflict Resolutions as majors.

During the year, the students will meet with many professionals whose jobs revolve around the concepts of Restorative Justice and Conflict Resolution. Currently, we have scheduled visits from an LAPD Police Detective, a Federal Judge, a spokesman from Homeboy Industries, Scott Martin, who trained our last group of Peer Mediators and works with Mediators Beyond Borders, and a Professional Mediator whose daughter, Emily Gross, is currently in our Restorative Justice class.

In addition, our current students are observing mediations that we are conducting on campus involving their peers both as disputants and as Peer Mediators.

Our **Peer Mediators** are one of the growing student leadership groups on campus. Some mediators are also in other groups, so there is overlap and interaction, and Peer Mediation is represented in Justice League as well. The Dean's Office has also embraced Restorative Justice and we collaborate regularly on situations that are often most effectively addressed through mediation instead of traditional methods of discipline.

In addition, academic counselor **Heather Schon** is working on her Master's in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peace Building and is tracking through data the long-term efficacy of Peer Mediation. Heather is also certified with the DRPA (Dispute Resolutions Program Act) and **Holly Korbonski** is in the process of obtaining this same certification.

The **California Association Of Student Councils** endorses **Restorative Justice** programs:
PROVEN RESULTS

- The California Conference for Equality and Justice has found that the implementation of restorative justice has greatly decreased the number of fights, bullying, suspension, and expulsion.
- A study by Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice found that the implementation of restorative justice reduces the number of youth recidivism from 50% to 31%.



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- Schools in Peoria, Illinois, have implemented dialogue circles as a form of restorative justice and now has a result of 35% decrease in referrals to detention.
- In Merced, California, six schools have implemented restorative justice and experienced a decrease in suspension ranging from 20% to 40%.
- In California, youth recidivism is proven to be lowered by restorative justice from 90% to approximately 10-30%.
- Restorative justice has been proven to lower dropout rates, which decreases the chances of students becoming financially troubled or conducting a crime. This will save schools countywide approximately \$120,000 per year.

Department Reports

Counseling Office Highlights

- Senior letters sent out electronically on Thursday, October 4th –responding to uptick in parent calls/email.
- Course planning and check-ins with junior class in progress.
- Setting up SST meetings for students who have failing grades on Progress 1 (mostly 9th & 10th).

Deans Office

- Ongoing-response to reports about at-risk students. Teachers have been playing an important role in identifying and referring students. Uptick in student confrontations. As far as we know all students have been identified and dealt with, including the off campus ones. Mental health care providers have been extremely helpful in addressing student needs.
- **Officer Johnson** with **Russel Howard** or **John Achen** have gone around hot spots after school in his patrol car.
- Restorative Justice Resource Room is now in use for mediations, meetings, and time-outs.

Athletics

- Fall sports coming to a close. All fall sports will be in the playoffs.

EDP Activities

- Attended **the Los Angeles Advocacy Meeting** at STEM Prep. Guest speakers included LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner.
- Attended the **CCSA Region 4 Meeting** with leaders from other charter schools. Topics included communication, authorization developments, state-wide trends, and academic accountability.