



THE HAREBRAIN

Long Beach Poly High School PACE Parent Group

Late Summer 2021



Samantha Lawrence PACE Coordinator

I hope you all were able to relax and enjoy some time for yourself this summer. I have a couple things I'd like to share with you.

First of all – a warm welcome to the Poly PACE class of 2025 to Long Beach Polytechnic High School, the home of Scholars, Champions, Musicians, and Humanitarians. Poly has many uplifting traditions and pride in our school and community but as far as I'm concerned the best thing about Poly is you all and the parts you will play in shaping Poly's future. Each one of you has an opportunity to pursue a path that is truly your own through the PACE program. As you enter the campus, you will notice an engraved motto that reads, "Enter to learn, go forth to serve". You have been admitted to one of the most prestigious high schools in the country. Poly is known nationwide for its impressive student college acceptances, Advanced Placement test passage rate, outstanding sports, excellent music programs and more. It is no accident that you have been invited to join these ranks of greatness. You belong here!

As an incoming freshman, you will have the opportunity to participate in an academic setting that will challenge you intellectually; you will be encouraged to develop and define your individuality. I encourage you to explore and embrace your school community because it's through these connections that we can all achieve more than we can alone.

To all our families, a few things I'd like to put on your radar:

PACE Social – The PACE staff would like to put together a PACE Social for our incoming 9th and 10th graders, tentatively scheduled for the morning/afternoon of August 28th. I'll be sending out more information on this soon through the email addresses the district has on file -- so check your Parent/Student VUE addresses to make sure the addresses there are current.

If you are interested in helping out with this event as a

parent or an upper class student please contact me at my district address (slawrence@lbschools.net) or stop into PACE office hours on Tuesdays from 10-12 throughout the summer. The Zoom access for those office hours is on the PACE page of the LBP website (<https://lbpoly.schoolloop.com/PACE>).

PACE Senior Showcase – This year we would like to celebrate our PACE Seniors with an opportunity to showcase projects, activities, and achievements. This idea really springs from the phenomenal examples of leadership, community service, creativity, and scholarship that I have observed throughout my tenure in PACE, but particularly in the past year. I have helped students pursue original academic research in the community, heard about their success working with Harbor UCLA, UCLA Medical, and Cedars Sinai in our BioMedical Research class, and watched them lead the way in LBUSD through Poly's Green School Campaign. Not to mention COVID Connections, a program assisting the homebound - started by our own Jacob Kraus and Be The Change Coloring Co., creating and publishing educational coloring books - created by a group of students during their FRESHMAN YEAR. These are a small sampling of the type of projects our students create for themselves.

The PACE staff wants to provide our students with more opportunity, structure, and support to develop and celebrate these types of activities and decided that an event that allows the students to present and the community to celebrate their achievements sounds about right. We are thinking the first such event should happen this coming year and so far we have about 60 Seniors and over 200 PACE students interested. If you are interested in supporting this event -- as a student, parent, or advisor please contact me at my district address (slawrence@lbschools.net) or stop into PACE office hours on Tuesdays from 10-12 throughout the summer. The Zoom access for those office hours is on the PACE page of the LBP website (<https://lbpoly.schoolloop.com/PACE>).

Finally, I'd just like to wish you all the best. I'll be available during those office hours if you need something.

Thanks, Ms. Lawrence

Origins of PACE

As the fall semester gets underway, PACE welcomes a new class of talented students that have always defined this program and continue to find an academic home at Long Beach Poly. It seems a good time to share a condensed article written for the Harebrain in 2012, by Dr. Michelle Aberle, long time PACE Coordinator until 2018. Like a reset of sorts, we remember and celebrate the origins of PACE that began with Dr. Nancy Gray, the founder of the program, 47 years ago!

... the creation of PACE goes back to 1975 when Long Beach Unified School District faced the reality of court-ordered bussing to desegregate Poly High School. The superintendent of LBUSD and the Poly principal approached Poly teacher Nancy Gray and tasked her with developing a concept for a program that would attract students from other high schools on the east side of Long Beach to attend Poly, at least for a portion of the school day. Nancy Gray, a Fulbright scholar, has devoted her life and remarkable talent to education with a bachelors degree in history, masters degrees in foreign language (multiple) and a doctorate in statistics. She accepted the challenge and viewed the creation of a new program as an opportunity not only to desegregate Poly High School but also to attend to the unmet needs of students.

Dr. Gray began researching several models from all over the United States, including Pasadena's Foundation School, Middle College La Guardia High School in New York, and Hunter College High School in Long Island, borrowing features that could fit the needs of Poly and rejecting those that were inapplicable. Dr. Gray wanted to create a concept that would attract an entirely different type of student, one who would value and benefit from a rigorous program in classical education. She crafted a loyalty oath for students and their parents agreeing that participants would abide by a seven-class schedule, would maintain a high standard in attendance and conduct, and would adhere to one of three prescribed courses of study for the eleventh and twelfth grades, one in science and math, one in liberal arts, and one in fine arts that could take advantage of the newly implemented arts magnet.

The seven-period structure guided her naming of the program: Program of Additional Curricular Experiences refers to the seventh class students take per semester. Advanced Placement courses had never been offered at Poly. She structured specific grade level curricula to begin to achieve the rigor that would characterize this program and free up an elective for the eleventh and twelfth grades. PACE adhered to a modular schedule (which we all now enjoy as the block schedule) that Dr. Gray based upon what was being done at Beverly Hills High School and that allowed for the seventh class. The essential structural components of Nancy Grays's course of study remain in place today, complimented now by additional course offerings and enrichments. Her insistence upon rigor is undeniably the essence of the program.

Finding teachers for PACE was not a simple task. Dr. Gray relied upon recommendations of colleagues whose standards she

trusted. She recruited an initial slate of faculty members with excellent reputations whom she knew could work well with a variety of students from all over the city: Dr. Gray describes the first years of PACE as "the heroic years." PACE teachers all taught six rather than five classes of 37 students and each year had to waive contract maximums. In interviewing Nancy, she laughed as she stated that, "when an opening to teach in PACE arose, no one applied." Those teachers that came willingly developed an intense loyalty to the program. Teaching in PACE was in ways an act of sacrifice; teachers worked hard and often against stubborn opposition to their efforts by others who believed that PACE was siphoning off all the "good" students from the suburban schools and from the rest of Poly.

Initially, many PACE students were bused into Poly for the morning and could return to their home schools for afternoon classes. By 1994, no students were opting to leave Poly in the afternoon. The safety of the campus and quality of interaction between students and with teachers was no longer an issue with those that came to experience the program and the campus. PACE and its talented student population became an exclusively Poly phenomenon, and its participants graduated from Poly with a PACE diploma.

By the fourth year of PACE's existence, PACE teachers united and went to the administration to ask that Dr. Gray be relieved of teaching responsibilities to focus exclusively on administration of the program. Recognizing the obvious excellence of the program and the value of her contributions, the district agreed to permit Nancy to focus on the work of recruiting teachers, adding Advanced Placement classes to the roster, and taking care of the multitude of administrative tasks that the program requires.

Nancy Gray left Poly and PACE after eight years to become a language arts consultant. She has stated that her "years in PACE were the best of [her] career." We in PACE today can only hope that she feels the depth of our appreciation for her vision and creativity.



Getting Ready for Back to School on August 31st

Congratulations PACE PPG Scholarship Recipients

Class of 2021

**Maya Curry
Itzel Ibarra
Ethan Jenkins
Jacob Kraus
Dana Kriebel
Rachel Ly
Danny Nguyen
Victoria Quach
Shiraz Rezaei
Chansochata Thon**

Kelly Sullivan

President, PACE Parent Group (PPG)

My name is Kelly Sullivan and my son, Grant, is a Poly PACE “rising junior” and his older sister, Kate, is a Poly PACE alumnus from the Class of 2019 and “rising college junior.” As the PACE Parent Group President, I’d like to wish our returning and new Poly PACE families a warm welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. We have a lot to look forward to this year and can’t wait to return to our normal program.

I would like to take this time to thank our ***fabulous*** PACE Parent Group Board who were unrelenting in their drive to help the PACE Parent Group thrive this past year. It’s a pleasure working amongst these talented parents who work hard for the benefit of our incredible PACE program.

We bid farewell to our Recording Secretary, **Anna Van Fleet**, who has served on the board for the past two years. We’re grateful for her service and wish her 2021 PACE Senior, Ella Van Fleet, the best at UCLA in the fall. We’re excited to add Devon Trunnelle, a second generation Poly alumnus, to our board as Recording Secretary. Devon’s son, Jackson Trunnelle, will be a PACE freshman this Fall. We also welcome Jyoti Nanda as Vice President/President-elect. Her son, Sai Trivedi, is an incoming PACE freshman as well.

As a PACE parent and board member, it was apparent one of the very best places to be as a student during an on-line learning environment was in PACE where our treasure-trove of PACE teachers delivered an uncompromised year of outstanding instruction despite the many challenges. We’re confident our students are fully prepared to take it to the next level next year.

Speaking of the next level, we wish our Senior Class of 2021 the best and have no doubt they will go forth to serve and are ready to learn wherever they go.

paceparent@gmail.com. 562-810-0737



Dana Zapanta

PACE Counselor

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

My time working with you I have been continuously impressed with the fortitude you have shown. I know this past year and a half you may have experienced a range of emotions. There were challenges and times of uncertainty—yet you continued to seek knowledge, ask questions, and adjust. It has been inspiring to see. Your dedication, and high expectations you have set for yourself over the years has propelled you forward. As a class, you have earned acceptances into wonderful colleges and universities. Take time to remember how you arrived at this moment; applaud yourself and thank those who have supported you. Maintain your passion for learning, your dreams, and your goals. Bring the knowledge you have gained thus far with you, as well as your curiosity and creativity. You are a capable, critical thinker and contributor. I wish you all the best in your continued learning and journey. Remember, “ONCE A JACKRABBIT, ALWAYS A JACKRABBIT!”

WELCOME CLASS OF 2025

Welcome to Long Beach Polytechnic “Poly” High School! I look forward to meeting and getting to know you over the course of your high school career. You will soon enter and join a campus environment rich with activities, academics, athletics, and the arts. You will have the opportunity to engage in a comprehensive academic setting that will challenge you. It will push you to think critically, collaborate, contribute, and develop. These next four years, be sure to discover what the Poly community has to offer. Be an active participant. Be both, a consumer and a producer of knowledge. Be resourceful and take advantage of the support systems available to help you.

Remember, make the most of the experiences afforded to you while maintaining a healthy balance. In doing so, I trust you will enjoy your time here on this wonderful campus—finding it memorable and enriching. I hope you have a wonderful summer doing things you enjoy. I look forward to working with you.

Thank you to our 2020-2021 school year Donors

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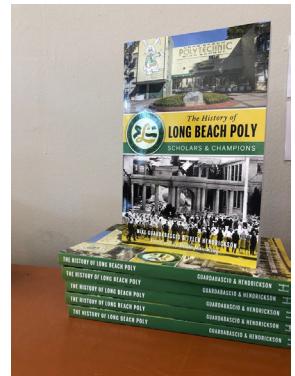


SCAN ME

PACE Parent Group (PPG) is a non-profit board consisting of PACE parent volunteers who raise and manage donations in order to provide additional support to the PACE academic and scholarship program

Your suggested tax-deductible donation (Tax ID #20-1801993) of \$150 per student per year meets our budgeted expenses but any amount is welcome and appreciated.

We are pleased to continue our gift to you of a signed copy of The History of Long Beach Poly for donations of \$500 or more. Written by PACE and CIC alums, Tyler Hendrickson and Mike Guardabascio, it's a terrific read for all and a lifelong keepsake for your PACE student.



The PPG is looking for help with Harebrain design and publication.
paceparent@gmail.com

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