

Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation Kicks Off Program

By **KEN JUANER MALATE**
The Outlook

The Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation (PISF) held its program kick-off at Flintridge Preparatory School on October 16. The foundation is one of the first programs of its kind in the nation that puts the decision-making power of doing corporate charitable donations into the hands of students from independent schools.

During the gathering, participating students in grades 7-10 and their parents were informed of the goal of PISF — to give students a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to run a nonprofit organization, to learn critical thinking and decision-making skills and to foster leadership skills and reinforce the benefits of volunteerism.

The students involved were selected from six participating middle schools and high schools: Flintridge Preparatory School, Chandler School, New Horizon School, Westridge School, Polytechnic School and Mayfield Senior School.

Peter Bachmann, Headmaster of Flintridge Preparatory School and Board of Directors member said, "I'm just so excited to volunteer for the program. It's such a unique and original opportunity for the kids to help and serve the community."

In addition to serving their communities, student volunteers will also be learning how to become its leaders. In a sense, they will be helping influence and shape the community through the decisions they will make.

The participating students will meet twice each month throughout the school year. One group of 22 students will visit a local charity to learn about day-to-day operations and goals. The other group of 22 students will focus on a philanthropic "learning topic." The students and facilitators will discuss the importance of volunteering, civil service and new trends in philanthropy, investments and an introduction to endowments and grant awards. "I want my kids to participate in PISF because I believe it's a great and interesting program," said Chandler Headmaster John Finch. "I think its going to be a great intellectual and social experience for them."

The sponsors play a significant role in funding the organizations through grants, because without them, there would be no PISF program. Nestle USA is the top sponsor for the PISF. Other sponsors include local businesses such as Acosta & Co., Hing Wa Lee Jewelers, Richard McWhorter Smith Brothers Restaurants, and Professional Business Bank. Other sponsors are Stanislawski and Harrison Accounting, Hahn and Hahn, Springbanc Philanthropy Advisors and the Pasadena Outlook. Altogether, the sponsors contributed nearly \$50,000 to the program.

"We picked this program because Nestle participates in community programs that support education," said Rob Case, president of Nestle's Beverage Division. "I

strongly believe that this program will help develop our kids through leadership skills and critical thinking."

PISF was the brainchild of Jonathon D. Jaffrey who is president of Springbanc Philanthropy Advisors. "These students are really going to be the future of this country. So, by having them join a program like this, we are preparing them for their future," said Jaffrey.

When Jaffrey was asked to summarize the goal of PISF in one sentence, he said "I want the students to learn a sense of community, a sense for something other than themselves and that they can make a difference and have an effect on the community in which they live."

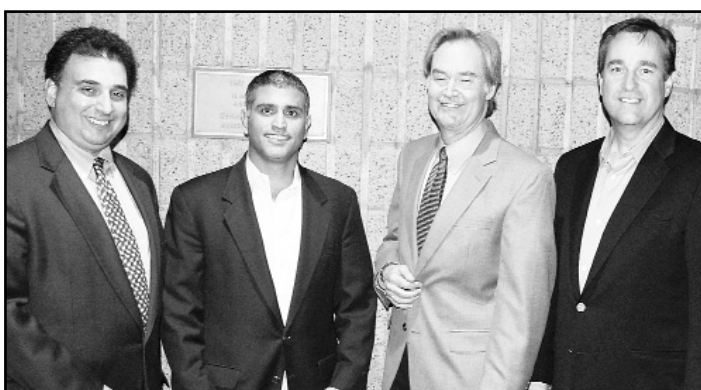
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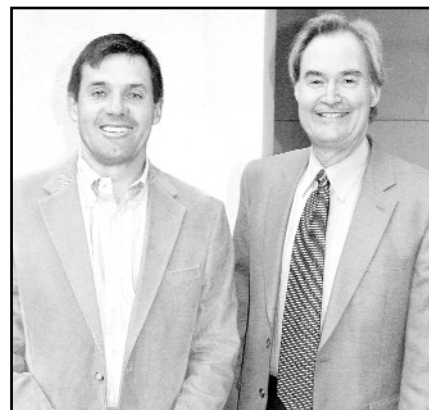
PISF founder Jonathan Jaffrey welcomed parents and students to the kick-off meeting.



Flintridge Prep students prepare for the PISF kick-off meeting. Front row: Naomi Hatanaka (left) and Alina Okamoto. Back row: Maria Yu, Evie Bettmen, Casey Meuer and Lauren Guarino



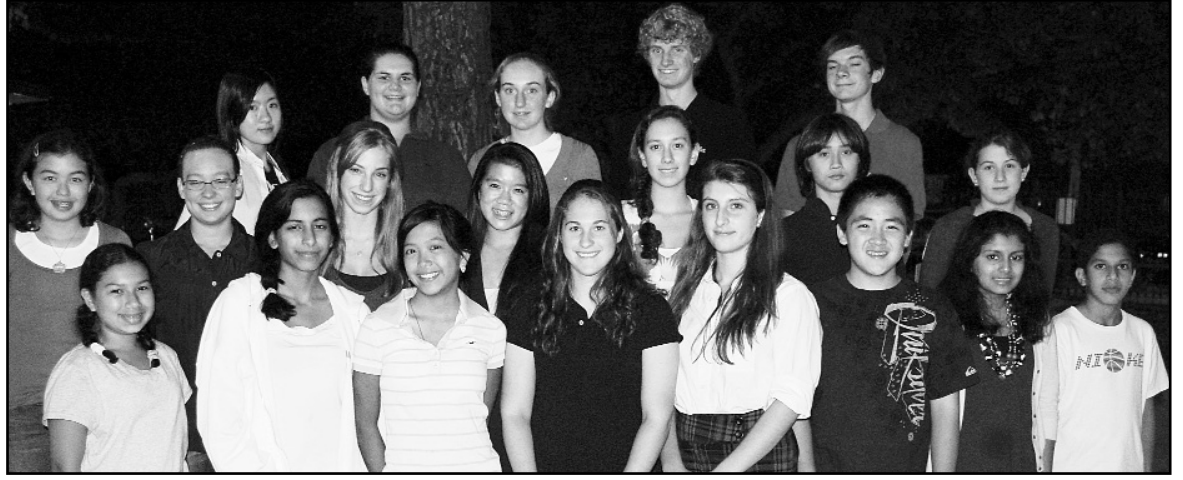
Jonathan Jaffrey (left), founder of Pasadena Independent Schools Foundation, poses with other members of the PISF board of directors — Kashif Sheikh, Peter Bachmann and Rob Case.



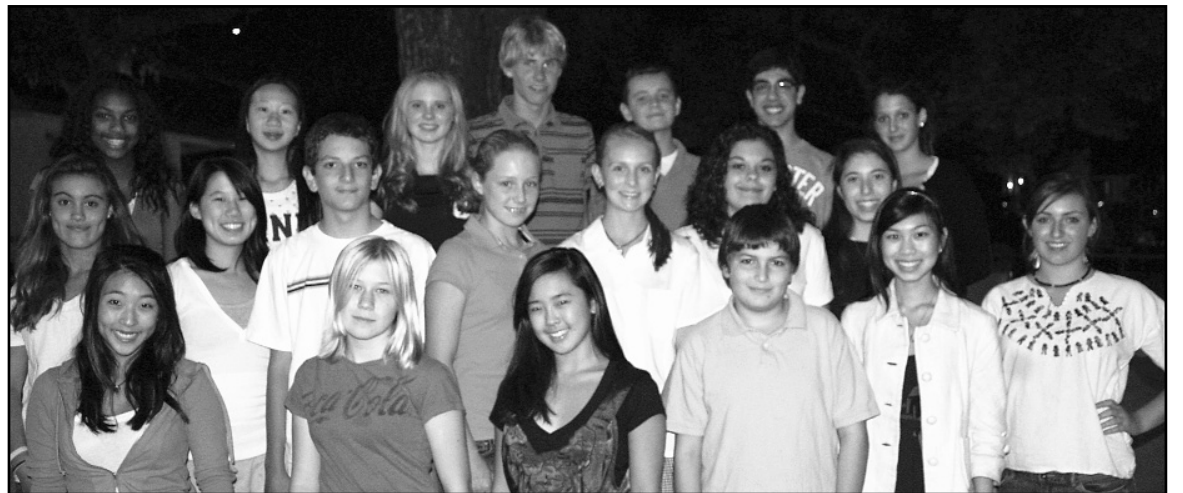
Chandler Headmaster John Finch and Flintridge Prep Headmaster Peter Bachmann chatted before the presentation.



Rob Case, president of Nestle's Beverage Division, explains the goals of the PISF program to parents and students.



Students from PISF's Group A relaxed after the kick-off meeting. Front row, from left: Alyssa Rivas (Chandler School), Sara Khan (Westridge School), Cassie Nufable (Westridge School), Ali Preiss (Flintridge Prep), Mary D'Onofrio (Polytechnic School), Maxwell Liaw (The Chandler School), Sheila Sitaram (Westridge School) and Ali Kamal (New Horizon School). Middle row: Maile Murphy (The Chandler School), Kristin Brisbois (Flintridge Prep), Lauren Guarino (Flintridge Prep), Alina Okamoto (Flintridge Prep), Andrea Garcia (Mayfield Senior School), Koby Hayashi (Chandler School) and Hannah Stewart (New Horizon School). Back row: Jessica Ma (Westridge School), Catherine Berry (Westridge School), Julie McCrimlick (Westridge School), Jason Burn (Flintridge Prep) and Jackson McHenry (Flintridge Prep).



Students from PISF's Group B paused for a photo. Front row, from left: Julie Lee (Westridge School), Anna Curtis (Chandler School), Naomi Hatanaka (Flintridge Prep), Nasser Akkari (New Horizon), Maria Yu (Flintridge Prep), Kate Cherkas (Mayfield Senior School), Kendall Khonsari (Chandler School), Deanna Loh (Westridge School), Omar Ozgur (New Horizon), Caroline Harvey (Polytechnic School), Catherine Rose Grimes (Mayfield Senior School), Dorie Bailey (Westridge School), Nina Guo (Westridge School) Back row: Olivia Gaines (Chandler School), Ellen Kim (Westridge School), Casey Meurer (Flintridge Prep), Colin Woolway (Polytechnic School), Xander Swain (Chandler School), Justin Farshidi (Flintridge Prep) and Evie Bettman (Flintridge Prep).



Westridge moms Louise Loh (left) and Daphne Liu were with students Catherine Berry, Deanna Loh and Jessica Ma.