



# ISP News



## Inside This Issue:

Welcome	1
Full Time Enrollment Requirement	2
Health Insurance Coverage	2
President's Day Weekend	2
Valentine's Day	3
Super Bowl	3
Add/ Drop Deadline	4
Club Day	4
Pass/ No Pass Deadline	4
Lunar New Year	5
The Amazing Race	6
Basketball Games	6
January/ February Birthdays	7
Contact Us	7

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February, 2012

## Welcome to the Spring Semester at LPC!

Dear Students,

We hope you are enjoying your classes and having a wonderful semester so far. The International Student Program (ISP) welcomed **32 new students** this semester from the following countries:

8 from China  
7 from South Korea  
4 from D.R. Congo  
2 each from the Philippines and Taiwan  
1 each from Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Mali, Sweden, Tajikistan

Our new students attended a successful 3 day New International Student Orientation from January 11 - 13, 2012. Students were warmly greeted by our President, Dr. Kevin Walthers and Dean of Enrollment Services, Ms. Sylvia Rodriguez and several of our current International students, and had sessions from International Student Counselor Gilberto Victoria, ESL Instructor Jonathan Brickman and Campus Safety Officer Steve Lowery

We are honored that you've chosen to study at Las Positas College. The ISP is excited to help you reach your academic goals and have an enjoyable experience while studying here. We hope that you find this newsletter informative and helpful. The ISP always welcomes your feedback, questions, and story ideas.



## Full Time Enrollment Requirement

Just a reminder that all students with F-1 (student) non-immigrant visa status are required to be enrolled in, and complete, a minimum of **12 units** every Fall and Spring Semester. You may not withdraw or drop below 12 units without prior permission from the ISP Office. If you have any questions or difficulties, please come into the ISP Office.



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## Health Insurance Coverage

The health and safety of all international students at LPC is our primary concern. To protect you from unforeseen injuries and illnesses, and from the high cost of medical care in the U.S., medical insurance is required for all international students. This coverage must include repatriation and medical evacuation, and must be continuous throughout the semester. If you have not done so already, please submit proof of insurance coverage to the ISP Office as soon as possible. If you have not yet purchased health insurance and need assistance, we would be happy to recommend several plans to you that provide good coverage at a reasonable cost. As it is a requirement of your enrollment at LPC, failure to take care of this matter right away may jeopardize your status with Las Positas College. If you have any questions regarding your health insurance or this requirement, please contact the ISP Office.



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## Presidents' Weekend Holiday

### Holidays

The Las Positas College Campus is closed and there are **no classes on Friday, February 17** (Abraham Lincoln's Birthday) **and Monday, February 20** (George Washington's Birthday), two of the USA's most respected Presidents. There are no classes on Saturday, February 18 as well. Enjoy your long week-end!



## Valentine's Day—Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day is a day to treat the special someone in your life with roses or chocolates. Many children exchange cards with classmates, and couples go out for a romantic dinner. Many people wear red on this day. This day originated from a Roman named Valentine. At the time, it was forbidden for men in the Roman army to marry, but the Christian Valentine presided over many weddings anyway. He was sent to jail because of this and was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "from your Valentine".

**Happy Valentine's Day!**



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## Super Bowl

Watch and cheer Sean's favorite American football team, the **New England Patriots** as they play the New York Giants in Super Bowl XLVI (46), the championship game of the National Football League in Indianapolis, IN. The game starts **at 3:30 pm on Sunday, February 5, 2012** on NBC, Channel 3. This is often the most watched television show of the year in the United States, and even many non-football fans watch the game for the original commercials that air during the game. A 30 second commercial is said to cost \$3.5 million during the game. Many Americans gather with friends and watch the games while eating chips, pizza, chili, buffalo wings and drinking beer.



## Last Day to Add or Drop Full-Term Classes with a NGR—February 5

**Sunday, February 5** is the deadline to add or drop full term classes (classes that began the week of January 17, 2012) with no grade of record (NGR). The last day to add or drop classes in person (in our office or in Admissions and Records) is Friday, January 3. The "add / drop" deadline is later for "late start classes" (classes that began on January 31 like ESL classes.) Classes "dropped" after this date will appear as a "W" standing for "Withdrawal" on your transcript. You will not receive a refund or credit for fees paid for these classes. Please also keep in mind that classes that you receive a grade of "W" do **NOT** count as part of your required minimum 12 units to maintain your legal student status in the U.S.



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## Club Day - Wednesday, February 15, 2012

10:30 am - 2:00 pm in front of the Library (building #2000) or in the Dining Room in Building 1700 in case of rain.

Want to have fun and meet people with similar interests? Then come to Club Day (also called "Rush Wednesday") and visit the booths of the many student clubs here on campus who will be trying to recruit new members.

### International Students Club

The International Students Club is a club that represents our International Students and promotes the diversity on our campus. Please stop by our booth at Club Day to find out more about the club and our fun cultural and educational activities planned for this semester. More information on Club meetings and events will follow.

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## Last Day to Apply for Pass/ No Pass - Thursday, February 16

For classes in the Class Schedule listed in the "**Codes**" column as "**OP**", you have the choice to take the classes for a letter grade (A,B,C,D, F) or as Pass / No Pass. In Pass/ No Pass classes, a grade of "C" or better counts as "passing" but does not affect your Grade Point Average (GPA). This is a good option if you are not doing as well as you would like in a particular class and don't want to lower your GPA. A maximum of 12 units of "passing" classes may be applied toward the Associate degree and there may be additional limits on the amount of classes taken as Pass/ No Pass that are transferrable. Please see Gilberto Victoria, Counselor in Building #700 for more information.

## Lunar New Year—Year of the Dragon

January 23 marked the Lunar New Year, also called “Chinese New Year”, the first full moon of the new year. It is celebrated among Chinese people throughout the world, as well as Koreans, Vietnamese, Mongolians, and Tibetans. It is said that 1 out of every 5 people on earth celebrate the Lunar New Year. Also called “the Spring Festival”, it is the longest and most important holiday of the year in China. Families gather to eat traditional food over the 15 day festival and young family members are given “red envelopes” that contain money in certain numbers that reflect good luck. It’s the year 4710 in China, and also according to the Chinese zodiac, the **Year of the (Water) Dragon**. It is thought that no house cleaning should be done on the New Year as it would sweep away the good luck. Also, you should avoid any arguments or fights during the New Year.



### Horoscope

According to legend Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on the Lunar New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in dragon years (in 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, or 2012) are innovative, imaginative, decisive, self-confident, curious, brave and passionate. Dragons are not afraid when faced with challenges. Those born in the year of the Dragon will likely benefit from luck or good fortune during a Dragon year.

### Characteristics

While the Year of the Rabbit (2011) was characterized by calm and tranquility, the Year of the Dragon will be marked by excitement, unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity. People often respond to the spirit of the Dragon with energy, vitality and unbridled enthusiasm, often throwing all caution to the wind - which can be unwise. This promises to be a spectacular, extravagant and flamboyant year!

### Chinese New Year Parade

One of the great parades in the world, this is not to be missed! On **Saturday, February 11 starting at 5:15 pm**, there will be a giant Chinese New Year parade in downtown San Francisco. This illuminated night parade has been a tradition since just after the Gold Rush in the 1850s. This parade in San Francisco's Chinatown is the largest celebration of its kind outside of Asia. Highlights of the parade include elaborately decorated floats, school marching bands, stilt walkers, lion dancers, Chinese acrobatics, the newly crowned Miss Chinatown U.S.A., and the 201 foot long "Gum Lung" Golden Dragon. More information is available at: <http://www.chineseparade.com/>

Happy Lunar New Year!

## The Amazing Race—Reality TV Show

The 20th season of the Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Reality- Competition Program, The Amazing Races starts on Sunday, February 19 at 8:00 pm on CBS (Channel 5). The Amazing Race features

eleven teams of two Americans, each with a pre-existing relationship, in a race around the world. The teams perform tasks that are typically designed to highlight the local culture of the country they are in, with the winners earning a \$1 million prize. This season, contestants travel through 22

cities in 5 continents with confirmed countries including Argentina, Paraguay, Tanzania, Azerbaijan, Germany and Italy. For more information, check out:

[http://www.cbs.com/shows/amazing\\_race/](http://www.cbs.com/shows/amazing_race/).



## LPC Basketball Games

Come and cheer on your LPC Hawks as they play the following HOME games (at the PE Complex Gym (Building 2500)). Games cost \$3 for Students (with Student ID card).



### Men's Games:

Wednesday, February 1 vs. Canada @ 7:00 pm

Friday, February 10 vs. Foothill @ 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 15 vs. Chabot @ 7:00 pm (Chabot is our Sister College)

### Women's Games:

Wednesday, February 1 vs. College of San Mateo @ 5:00 pm

Friday, February 10 vs. Foothill @ 5:00 pm

Wednesday, February 15 vs. Chabot @ 5:00 pm



**Kipanga** - our new school mascot. "Kipanga" means "hawk" in Swahili



3033 Collier Canyon Road  
Livermore, CA 94551

International Student Program  
Building # 1300  
Sean -Room # 1311  
Cindy - Room # 1314  
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 - 4:00  
F 9:00 -1:00



## January and February Birthdays

Jiale Luo (China) - January 3  
Goeun (Amanda) Ryu (Korea) - January 5  
Grace Ekeoma (Nigeria) - January 8  
Pierre Gely (France) - January 9  
Peangjai (Yui) Kampirapang (Thailand) - January 9  
Eun Kyung Kim - (Korea) - January 18  
Tien-Yu (Jessica) Hsu (Taiwan) - January 24  
Hyunwoo (Paul) Park - January 28  
Jeong Eun Heo (Korea) - January 28  
Jaewook Shin (Korea) - January 28  
Ju Hee Seo (Korea) - January 30

Tiago Fernandes (Brazil)- February 1  
Ming Sit (China) - February 3  
Hae Su Chung (Korea) - February 25



Parabéns Feliz Aniversário (Happy Birthday in Portugese)



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## Contact Us

**Cindy Balero**

**International Student Program Coordinator**

**Telephone: (925) 424-1548**

**E-mail: cbalero@laspositascollege.edu**

**Sean Day**

**International Admissions Specialist**

**Telephone: (925) 424-1540**

**E-mail: sday@laspositascollege.edu**

